

HOME NEWS

Building workers look set to accept £475m pay offer

By Alan Hamilton Labour Staff Nearly a million construction workers are expected to accept a £475m pay offer in a branch-by-branch vote which begins next week.

Engineers likely to clash over TUC wage rule

Union leaders of 1,500,000 engineering workers are likely to face strong opposition from the industry's employers when they meet early next month to discuss a substantial pay claim.

200 workers redundant as factories cut hours

The year will end gloomily for thousands of workers making cars and sewing machines in the west of Scotland and for more than 80 Harris tweed makers in the Western Isles.

Stonehouse mystery embarrasses Labour Party colleagues

Continued from page 1 Heived a letter from Mr Stonehouse after he had left for America saying that he had arranged his own 'pair' with Glasgow.

Down and outs find a Christmas refuge

By a Staff Reporter More than 500 homeless men and women have been able to come in from the cold of the railway arches and the dosshouse and spend Christmas week in the stark but warm interior of a disused church next to Lambeth Palace, in London.

Three sought after Southampton shooting

From Our Correspondent Southampton Hundreds of police searched Southampton yesterday for two men and a woman thought to be IRA members, after a police constable was shot and seriously injured early on Christmas Eve.

Deaths in Belfast mar near-peaceful holiday

From Stewart Tendler Belfast Two deaths in Belfast blighted an otherwise peaceful Christmas in Northern Ireland. The victim of a sub-machinegun attack nearly three months ago died in hospital on Christmas Eve and a dying man was found yesterday in a city street.

Mr Thorpe campaigns for two-tier petrol price

By Our Political Correspondent Mr Thorpe, the Liberal Party leader, said yesterday that he intends to continue his campaign for the introduction of a two-tier pricing system for petrol.

Down and outs find a Christmas refuge

Volunteers in the crypt of St Mary's Church, Lambeth, unpacking food for their homeless guests.

Heads of special schools 'need help'

More help and better pay are needed for headmasters of special residential schools for handicapped children, a report published today by the National Association of Head Teachers states.

False British passport was issued in August, Australian police say

By Martin Huckerby To obtain a passport a person must provide a completed application form, a birth certificate, a photograph and a character referee, who must be a professional person, such as a doctor, lawyer or similar person.

Food poisoning affects 35

Hundreds of Christmas diners had to be cancelled at the Robin Hood Hotel, in Newark, Nottinghamshire, after 35 people suffered food poisoning.



Volunteers in the crypt of St Mary's Church, Lambeth, unpacking food for their homeless guests.

Southampton Cathedral last Sunday. Donations of money and food, and volunteer effort were received from a wide range of organizations, including church and other religious bodies and the youth members of the three main political parties.

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More royal shoots

The Duke of Edinburgh, who is due for a month's stay at Sandringham this weekend, has arranged one of the heaviest pheasant shooting programmes ever held on the 20,000-acre royal estate.

Bleak weekend outlook for making fresh start

The weekend after Christmas is always the bleakest of the year for lovers of fresh food. Wholesale deliveries are reduced, fishermen stay at home, and the shops display a discouraging proportion of wilted vegetables, wrinkled fruit, and left-over turkeys which have a good chance of reappearing the Christmas after.

Weather forecast and recordings

Table with weather forecasts and recordings for various locations including London, Edinburgh, and Glasgow. Includes columns for temperature, wind, and cloud cover.

Small text at the bottom right corner, possibly a subscription or contact information.

HOME NEWS

Wildfowling join hands with gamekeepers to overcome inflation

By Philip Howard Two of Britain's oldest and most respected associations for countryside pursuits, particularly the pursuit of succulent furred and feathered creatures, are to amalgamate on January 1 to resist inflation and promote ecology.

Britain from their breeding grounds. For example, last year it sent three scientists to Iceland to study the hydroelectric scheme to flood the central lowlands, the breeding ground of pink-footed geese. It conducts a mass programme to reintroduce ducks and geese into areas that they once frequented but have been driven from. It provides advice, education, insurance, and propaganda for wildfowling.



Christopher McAteer and Brian Perkins, who escaped from Rampton Hospital, Nottinghamshire, on Christmas Day.

WEST EUROPE AND OVERSEAS

Mr Ford studies CIA reply to allegations of domestic 'spying'

From Patrick Bragan Washington, Dec 26 President Ford, who is on holiday in Colorado, spent this morning skimming and the afternoon studying a 50-page report on the Central Intelligence Agency.

Congress intend to investigate the matter as soon as the new Congress assembles next month. Mr Lucien Nedzi, of Michigan, who is chairman of the House of Representatives subcommittee which is meant to supervise the CIA, has admitted that he was informed of some of the details of the agency's domestic activities last summer.

Left-wingers and Gaullists join in signing appeal to save Roman Catholic organ Imperilled newspaper calls for tax reform

From Richard Wigg Paris, Dec 26 The Roman Catholic La Croix, the smallest of the Paris evening newspapers, is battling with acute financial problems. It is also fighting on a general front to obtain a change in taxation laws.

But the conditions of the award exclude Libération, the extreme left-wing newspaper published with the aid of M Jean-Paul Sartre, the writer and philosopher, which is also in difficulties. The conditions also restrict the recipient's freedom to raise prices.

"purveyors of a product reserved for an élite". He pointed to the glossy news magazines necked with advertising and selling at 5 francs a copy. La Croix being directed principally at a Roman Catholic audience could not shed less well-off readers. This had implications also for democracy in France.

Sportsmen and bird-lovers urge stricter gun laws

From Our Correspondent St Peter Port Sportsmen and bird-lovers in Guernsey are working together to get changes in the island's gun laws to stop "trigger-happy cowboys" from shooting birds protected by law.

this season, including gulls, kestrels, a pet duck with clipped wings, and a kingfisher. "The worst time is after Christmas, when guns are given as presents", he said. "Last January, more than thirty birds were shot illegally; and this accounts only for those that were found and brought to us."

In brief

More listening to foreign radio

In the London region 29 per cent more regular listeners tune in to Radio Luxembourg each day than to Capital Radio, one of London's two commercial radio stations, according to figures based on research by Gallup Polls for Radio Luxembourg. Over a week 43 per cent more non-regular listeners tune in.

Football fracas

A youth was arrested and 38 were ejected from the ground after a fight on the terraces during the south coast local football match between Portsmouth and Southampton yesterday.

Crash PC 'poorly'

Police Constable Alan Brailford, whose police car went off the road at Teddington, Derbyshire, on Christmas Eve, was said to be poorly in the intensive care unit at Chesterfield Royal Hospital yesterday. He has head and leg injuries.

Dead sailor named

A sailor who was swept to his death on Christmas Day from the North Sea oil rig supply vessel Wasserror, was identified yesterday as Mr Carl Tebb, aged 35, believed to be from Bremen, West Germany.

Former CIA troops are new threat

Vientiane, Dec 26.—Pro-Communist Pathet Lao troops and rebel special forces held the small border town of Houei Sai tonight in an action which observers said could threaten the Laotian ceasefire agreement. The town, 200 miles north-west of here on the Thai border, was seized on Tuesday by two companies of former special forces raised by the United States Central Intelligence Agency during the war in Laos. They changed allegiance and overran the town.

Iran deal offers French industry big challenge

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, Dec 26 French economic experts argue that the differences which evidently still exist between Iran and France over gold prices make the holding of a tripartite conference of oil producers, oil consumers and Third World countries more necessary than ever. The forum, which was proposed by President Giscard d'Estaing, would allow for some big-scale bargaining which alone could resolve the clash of economic interests involved in the gold-versus-oil tussle.

Hijacker tries to crash plane on Rome

From Our Correspondent Rome, Dec 26 An apparently mentally unbalanced hijacker attempted to force the pilot of an Air India Boeing 747 airliner to dive into the centre of Rome early yesterday. He was overcome by the crew.

The hijacker, identified by air force police as aged 30 Canadian of Czech extraction, Josef Homolov, walked into the cockpit brandishing a small knife shortly before the airliner was due to land at Rome airport at 6.40 am. There were 170 people, including 19 crew, on board.

The bearded man also had a heavy engineer's torch with which he threatened to smash instruments. He said he had put bombs on board. The man told the captain, Mr M. Kapor, to fly over the city and then ordered him to speed up the engines and dive into the city. At this point four members of the crew jumped on the man and overpowered him. He later had stitches put on a head wound.

Three blows by the Pope's hammer opens Holy Year

From Our Correspondent Rome, Dec 26 The Pope opened the Roman Catholic Holy Year and the Christmas celebrations just before midnight on Christmas Eve with three blows from an ornamental silver hammer on the "holy door" into St Peter's basilica. The colourful but simple ceremony was watched by about 1,000 million television viewers throughout the world, and some 100,000 people packed the square outside.

Catholic Church is deeply divided by internal dissent and suffering from a decline in the number of believers. In his traditional Christmas message to the world on Christmas Day, the Pope said a huge crowd, waving a huge red and white flag, the Vatican flag in St Peter's Square that they were fortunate as "pupils of a so-called neo-humanistic society" that there was yet an affirmation of the ideals, human rights, equality, solidarity and peace.

M Giscard has breakfast with dustmen

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, Dec 26 Four road sweepers, three of them Africans, were invited by President Giscard d'Estaing to have breakfast with him at the Elysee on Christmas Eve. The dustmen, two from Mali and one from Senegal, with their French foreman, were sweeping the steps outside the Elysee when called for coffee, rolls, and croissants and a 20-minute chat with the President. Afterwards they each received a Christmas present of a turkey and a bottle of champagne.

Eight accused of plotting in French Guiana

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, Dec 26 Dr André Lecante, Secretary-General of the Socialist Party in French Guiana, was charged in Paris on Christmas Eve together with seven other Guianese with plotting in Cayenne to "substitute an illegal authority for that of the French state". All eight had been flown to Paris on board a military aircraft and are being detained in the Santé prison. They will be tried before the State Security Court.

Young skiers killed by Alpine avalanche

Paris, Dec 26.—Two young Parisians, aged 17 and 20, were killed by an avalanche while skiing in the French Alps near Tignes, Savoy, yesterday.

Science report Geophysics: Earth's silent slippage

By laboriously analysing an historical catalogue of earth tremors in the Mediterranean region over six decades, Dr R. G. Geophysics at Cambridge, has shown that the Earth's crust from Gibraltar to Iran is probably slipping quietly all the time, even though it is not dramatically manifest in an earthquake.

huge convective motion of the deep interior of the Earth as heat escapes. At the plate boundaries, or major faults, the relative movement across the boundaries can occur in either of two ways. The slip may be imperceptible and almost continuous, or it may be occasional and violent, as it is in many parts of the world where the plates always slip in this dramatic way. But are there smooth?

By adding up the slip over the whole period and comparing it with the predictions of movement now well accepted from our understanding of continental drift, he found that earthquakes were inadequate to explain the expected motion. In some parts, for instance the Gibraltar-Tunis seismic belt, earthquakes failed by a factor of one hundred to account for the predicted movement since 1910 of a metre or so.

Carrying a tall pastoral staff, the Pope slowly approached the holy door from the atrium of the basilica and then struck a nail in the middle of the door firmly with the hammer. The door, which is walled up in the 25 years between each jubilee had been loosened and prepared for opening by Vatican workers. Immediately after the Pope struck it, saying: "Open to me the door of the Lord", the door fell forward and was lowered into the church on ropes. Holy years go back to 1300 and the jubilees have been celebrated every 25 years since 1470.

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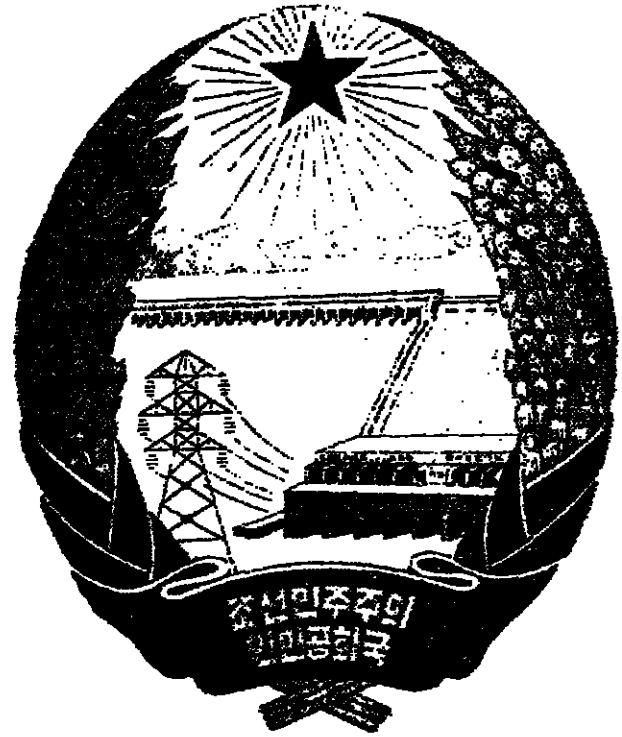
Make sure the last days of 1974 are well spent. Selfridges Sale Starts 9am Saturday Dec. 28th

All About Science At your newsagents NOW! What the press had to say about All About Science...the magazine is beautifully produced and lucid in its exposition. The Times Higher Education Supplement "I want to commend as highly as possible the new weekly partwork All About Science...it's a most imaginative project: educationally it's ahead of its time and it's brilliantly designed." John Russell in Teacher's World "The illustrations are relevant and contribute positively to the text—the writing is racy...All About Science is bright...and certain to make the pupil more aware of things scientific. Good Luck Orbis." Richard Fifield in New Scientist

Eritrean working for US arrested in Addis Ababa Addis Ababa, Dec 26.—An Eritrean working with the United States Information Service (USIS) in Addis Ababa has been arrested, apparently on suspicion of being an agent of the secessionist Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF), reliable sources said today. The front has been fighting for the secession of Eritrea—formerly a federal state with a large degree of autonomy—from the province of Ethiopia in 1962. The sources said the Eritrean was named as Michael Gebre-Egzbher, an assistant cultural officer with the USIS. He had been arrested a few days before fresh trouble arose in the northern province. Two people were killed and 41 injured in grenade attacks on bars in the capital Asmara, and in subsequent clashes between rebels and Army units on Sunday. Other unconfirmed reports from Asmara said that 19 students were strangled with steel wire in different parts of the city on Monday night. Asmara radio, broadcasting an announcement yesterday by the Military Council of the North, said seven people had been killed "in mysterious circumstances". The sources said the number of ELF agents in Addis Ababa had increased in recent months. After two explosions which shattered the city wall and a luxury hotel, police sources said they believed the blasts had been the work of the liberation front members.

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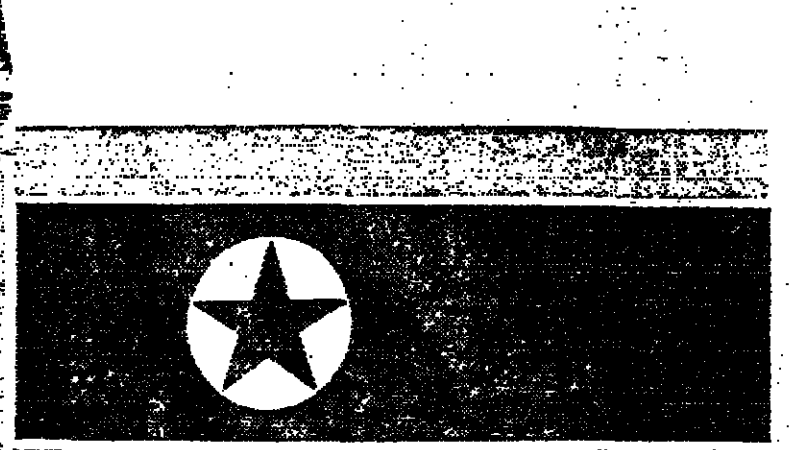
Socialist Constitution of The Democratic People's Republic of Korea



National Emblem of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.



President KIM IL SUNG.



National Flag of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

POLITICS

Article 1
The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is an independent socialist State which represents the interests of all the Korean people.

Article 2
The Democratic People's Republic of Korea relies on the politico-ideological unity of the entire people on the basis of the worker-peasant alliance led by the working class, on the socialist relations of production and the foundation of an independent national economy.

Article 3
The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a revolutionary State which has inherited the brilliant traditions formed during the glorious revolutionary struggle against the imperialist aggressors and for the liberation of the homeland and the freedom and well-being of the people.

Article 4
The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is guided in its activity by the just idea of the Workers' Party of Korea, which is a creative application of Marxism-Leninism to our country's reality.

Article 5
The Democratic People's Republic of Korea strives to achieve the complete victory of socialism in the northern half of the peninsula, reunify the country peacefully on a democratic basis and attain complete national independence.

Article 6
In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea class antagonism and all forms of exploitation and oppression of man by man have been eliminated for good. The State defends and protects the interests of the workers, peasants, soldiers and working intellectuals freed from exploitation and oppression.

Article 7
The sovereignty of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea rests with the workers, peasants, soldiers and working intellectuals. The working people exercise power through their representative organs—the Supreme People's Assembly and local People's Assemblies at all levels.

Article 8
The organs of power at all levels from the county People's Assembly to the Supreme People's Assembly are based on the principle of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot. Deputies to the organs of power at all levels are responsible to the electors for their work.

Article 9
All State organs in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are based on the principle of democratic centralism.

Article 10
The Democratic People's Republic of Korea exercises the dictatorship of the proletariat and carries through the class and mass lines.

Article 11
The State defends the socialist system against the subversive activities of the hostile elements at home and abroad and revolutionizes the entire society by intensifying the ideological revolution.

Article 12
The State thoroughly applies in all its work the great Chong-sunri spirit. It ensures that the upper units help the lower, the masses' opinions are respected and their conscious enthusiasm is raised by giving priority to political work, work with people.

Article 13
The Chollima Movement in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is the general line in the building of a socialist society. The State accelerates socialist construction to the maximum by constantly developing the Chollima Movement in depth and scope.

Article 14
The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is based on the all-people, nation-wide system of defence and carries through the self-defence military line.

Article 15
The armed forces of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea perform the functions of protecting the interests of the workers, peasants and other working people, defending the socialist system and revolutionary gains and safeguarding the freedom and independence of the country.

Article 16
The Democratic People's Republic of Korea protects the democratic, national rights of the overseas Koreans and their legitimate rights recognized by international law.

Article 17
The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is completely

equal and independent in its relations with foreign countries. The State establishes diplomatic and cultural relations with all countries that are friendly towards our country on the principles of complete equality, independence, mutual respect, non-interference in each other's internal affairs and mutual benefit.

Article 18
The State, in accordance with the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, unites with all the peoples of the world opposed to imperialism and actively supports and encourages their struggles for national liberation and their revolutionary struggles.

Article 19
The law of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea reflects the will and interests of the workers, peasants and other working people, and is consciously observed by all the State organs, enterprises, social cooperative organizations and citizens.

ECONOMY

Article 20
In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea the means of production are owned by the State and cooperative organizations.

Article 21
The property of the State belongs to all the people. The State may own any property without limit. All natural resources of the country, major factories and enterprises, harbours, transport and communication establishments are owned by the State only. The State property plays a leading role in the economic development of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Article 22
The property of cooperative organizations is collectively owned by the working people in the cooperative economy. The land, draught animals, farm implements, fishing boats, buildings, as well as small and medium factories and enterprises may be owned by cooperative organizations.

Article 23
The State protects the property of cooperative organizations by law. The personal property of the working people is protected by the State and carried through their work done and through the additional benefits from the State and society.

Article 24
The products from the inhabitants' subsidiary home enterprises, including those from the small plots of cooperative farmers, are also personal property. The State protects the working people's personal property by law and guarantees their right to succeed to it.

Article 25
The State regards it as the supreme principle of its activities to steadily improve the material and cultural standards of the people. The material wealth of society which constantly increases in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is used entirely for the promotion of the well-being of the working people.

Article 26
The foundation of the independent national economy built in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a guarantee for the prosperity and development of the country and the betterment of the people's livelihood. In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea the historic task of industrialization has been accomplished successfully. The State strives to consolidate and develop the successes in industrialization and further strengthen the material and technical foundations of socialism.

Article 27
The State accelerates the technical revolution to eliminate the distinctions between heavy and light labour and between agricultural and industrial labour, and gradually narrow down the difference between physical and mental labour.

Article 28
The State increases the role of the country and strengthens its

guidance and assistance to the countryside in order to eliminate the difference between town and country and the class distinction between the workers and the peasants. The State undertakes the building of production facilities of the cooperative farms and modern houses in the countryside at its expense.

Article 29
The working masses are the makers of history, and socialism and communism is built by the creative labour of millions of working people. All the working people in this country take part in labour, and work for the country and the people and for their own benefit by displaying conscious enthusiasm and creativity.

Article 30
The State correctly applies the socialist principle of distribution according to the quantity and quality of work done, while constantly raising the political and ideological consciousness of the working people.

Article 31
The working people work eight hours a day. The State lessens the working day according to special conditions of work. The State guarantees that the working hours are fully used through the proper organization of labour and the strengthening of labour discipline.

Article 32
In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea citizens' minimum working age is 15. The State ensures the education of children who are under working age.

Article 33
The State directs and manages the nation's economy through the Taean work system, an advanced socialist form of economic management whereby the economy is operated and carried out scientifically and rationally on the basis of the collective strength of the producer masses, and through the new system of agricultural guidance whereby agriculture is directed by industrial methods.

Article 34
The national economy of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a planned economy. In accordance with the laws of economic development of socialism, the State draws up and carries out the plan for the development of the national economy so that the balance of accumulation and consumption is maintained and the rate of economic construction accelerated, the people's living standards raised steadily and the nation's defence power strengthened.

Article 35
The State ensures a high rate of growth in production and a proportionate development of the national economy by implementing the policy of unified and detailed planning.

Article 36
The Democratic People's Republic of Korea compiles and implements the State budget according to the plan for the development of the national economy. The State systematically increases its accumulation and expands and develops socialist property by intensifying the struggle for increased production, economy and expanding strict financial control in all fields.

Article 37
The State abolishes taxation, a hangover of the old society.

Article 38
In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea foreign trade is conducted by the State or under its supervision. The State ensures foreign trade on the principles of complete equality and mutual benefit. The State pursues a tariff policy in order to protect the independent national economy.

CULTURE

Article 39
The Democratic People's Republic of Korea builds a true people's revolutionary culture which serves the socialist working people. In building a socialist national culture, the State opposes the cultural infiltration of imperialism and the restorationist and retrograde heritages of national culture and takes over and develops it in keeping with the socialist reality.

Article 40
The State eliminates the way of life left over from the old society and introduces the new socialist way of life in all fields.

Article 41
The State carries out effect the principles of socialist pedagogy and brings up the rising generation into steadfast revolutionaries who fight for society and the people, into men of a new communist type who are knowledgeable, virtuous and healthy.

Article 42
The State gives top priority to public education and the training of cadres for the nation and blends general education with technological education, and education with productive labour.

Article 43
The State introduces universal compulsory 10-year senior middle school education for all the rising generation under working age. The State gives all pupils and students free education.

Article 44
The State trains competent technicians and experts by developing the creative and scientific activities of workers and engineers as well as different forms of educational system of studying while on the job. The students of institutions of higher learning and higher specialized schools are granted scholarships.

Article 45
The State gives all the children a compulsory one-year pre-school education. The State brings up all the pre-school children in nurseries and kindergartens at State and public expenses.

Article 46
The State accelerates the nation's scientific and technological progress by thoroughly establishing Juche in scientific research and strengthening creative cooperation between scientists and producers.

Article 47
The State develops the Juche-oriented, revolutionary literature and art, national in form and socialist in content. The State encourages the creative activities of writers and artists and draws the broad masses of workers, farmers and other working people in literary and artistic activities.

Article 48
The State defends our language from the policy of the imperialists and their stooges to destroy it, and develops it to meet present-day needs. The State steadily increases the physical strength of the working people. The State fully prepares the entire people for work and national defence by promoting physical culture and sports and developing the physical training for national defence.

Article 49
The State consolidates and develops the system of universal free medical care and ensures through the policy of preventive medical care so as to protect the people's lives and promote the health of the working people.

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Article 51
The State ensures that all citizens enjoy equal rights in the political, economic and cultural and all other spheres of State and public activity.

Article 52
All citizens who have reached the age of 17 have the right to elect and be elected. Irrespective of sex, race, occupation, length of residence, property status and education, party affiliation, political views and religion, all citizens have the right to elect and be elected. Those who are deprived of Court decisions of the right to vote and those persons are denied the right to elect and be elected.

Article 53
Citizens have the freedoms of speech, the press, assembly, association and demonstration. The State guarantees conditions for free activities of democratic political parties and social organizations.

Article 54
Citizens have freedom of religious belief and freedom of anti-religious propaganda.

Article 55
Citizens are entitled to make complaints and submit petitions.

Article 56
Citizens have the right to work. All the able-bodied citizens choose occupations according to their desires and talents and are provided with stable jobs and working conditions. Citizens work according to their ability and receive remuneration according to the quantity and quality of work done.

Article 57
Citizens have the right to rest. This right is ensured by the eight-hour working day, paid leave, accommodation at health resorts and holiday homes at State expense and by an ever-expanding network of cultural facilities.

Article 58
Citizens are entitled to get free medical care, and persons who have lost ability of work because of old age, sickness or deformity, suppression of old people and orphans have the right to material assistance. This right is ensured by free medical care, a broadening network of hospitals, sanatoria and other medical institutions, and the State social insurance and maintenance.

Article 59
Citizens have the right to education. This right is guaranteed by the advanced educational system, free compulsory education and other educational measures of the State for the people. Citizens have the freedom of scientific, literary and artistic pursuits. The State grants favour to inventors and creators. The copyright and patent right are protected by law.

Article 60
The revolutionary fighters, the families of revolutionary and patriotic martyrs, the families of the People's Armymen, and the honourable and brave veterans enjoy the special protection of the State and society.

Article 61
Women hold equal social status and rights with men. The State affords special protection to mothers and children through maternity leave, shortened working hours for mothers of large families, expanded maternity hospitals and kindergartens and other measures. The State frees women from the heavy burdens of household chores and provides every condition for them to participate in public life.

Article 62
Marriage and the family are protected by the State. The State pays great attention to consolidating the family, the cell of society.

Article 63
Citizens are guaranteed the inviolability of the person and the privacy of correspondence. No citizen can be arrested except by law.

Article 64
All the Korean citizens in foreign lands are legally protected by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Article 65
The Democratic People's Republic of Korea protects the foreigners who seek asylum after fighting for peace and democracy, national independence and socialism, and for the freedom of scientific and cultural pursuits.

Article 66
Citizens must strictly observe the laws of the State and the socialist norms of life and the socialist rules of conduct.

Article 67
Citizens must display a high degree of collectivist spirit. Citizens must cherish their collective and organization and establish the revolutionary trait of working devotedly for the sake of society and the people and for the interests of the homeland and the revolution.

Article 68
It is the sacred duty and honour of citizens to work. Citizens must voluntarily and honestly participate in work and strictly observe labour discipline and working hours. Citizens must deal with the State and communal property with care, combat all manner of misappropriation and waste and run the nation's economy assiduously with the attitude of the master. The property of the State and social cooperative organizations is inviolable.

Article 69
Citizens must heighten their revolutionary vigilance against the manoeuvres of the imperialists and all hostile elements who are opposed to our country's socialist system, and most strictly preserve State secrets.

Article 70
National defence is the supreme duty and honour of citizens. Citizens must defend the country and serve in the army as stipulated by law. Treason to the country and the people is the most serious crime. Traitors to the country and the people are severely punished by law.

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THE SUPREME PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

Article 73
The Supreme People's Assembly is the highest organ of power of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The legislative power is exercised exclusively by the Supreme People's Assembly.

Article 74
The Supreme People's Assembly is composed of deputies elected on the principle of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot. The term of office of the Supreme People's Assembly is four years. A new Supreme People's Assembly is elected according to the decision of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly before the term of office of the sitting Supreme People's Assembly expires. When unavoidable circumstances render the election impossible, the term of office is prolonged until the election.

Article 75
The Supreme People's Assembly exercises the following powers:
1. to adopt or amend the Constitution, laws and ordinances;
2. to establish the basic principles of domestic and foreign policies of the State;
3. to elect the President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;
4. to elect or recall the Vice-Presidents of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Central People's Committee on the recommendation of the President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;
5. to elect or recall members of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly;
6. to elect or recall the Premier of the Administration Council on the recommendation of the President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;
7. to elect or recall the Vice-Chairman of the National Defence Commission on the recommendation of the President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;
8. to elect or recall the President of the Central Court and appoint or remove the Procurator General of the Central Procurator's Office;
9. to approve the State plan for the development of the national economy;
10. to approve the State budget and decide on questions of war and peace.

Article 76
The Supreme People's Assembly holds regular and extraordinary sessions. The regular session is convened once or twice a year by the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly. The extraordinary session is convened when the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly deems it necessary, or at the request of a minimum of one-third of the total number of deputies.

Article 77
The Supreme People's Assembly elects its Chairman and Vice-Chairmen. The Chairman presides over the session. Items to be considered at the Supreme People's Assembly are submitted by the President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Central People's Committee, the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly and the Administration Council. Such items can also be presented by deputies.

Article 78
The first session of the Supreme People's Assembly elects a Credentials Committee and decides on the recognition

of the qualifications of deputies according to the reports of this Committee.

Article 79
The laws, ordinances and decisions of the Supreme People's Assembly are adopted when more than half of the deputies present give approval by a show of hands. The Constitution is adopted or amended with the approval of more than two-thirds of the total number of deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly.

Article 80
The Supreme People's Assembly can establish a Budget Committee, a Bills Committee and other necessary Committees. The Committees of the Supreme People's Assembly assist in the work of the Supreme People's Assembly.

Article 81
The deputy to the Supreme People's Assembly is guaranteed inviolability as such. No deputy to the Supreme People's Assembly can be arrested without the consent of the Supreme People's Assembly or, when it is not in session, of its Standing Committee.

Article 82
The Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly is a permanent body of the Supreme People's Assembly. The Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly is composed of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Secretary and members. The Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Supreme People's Assembly are elected by the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly. The Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly exercises the following functions and powers:
1. to examine and decide on the Bills when the Supreme People's Assembly is not in session and to obtain the approval of the next session of the Supreme People's Assembly;
2. to amend the laws and ordinances in force; when the Supreme People's Assembly is not in session and to obtain the approval of the next session of the Supreme People's Assembly;
3. to interpret the laws and ordinances in force;
4. to convene the session of the Supreme People's Assembly;
5. to conduct the election of deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly;
6. to do the work with the deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly;
7. to work with the Committees of the Supreme People's Assembly when the Supreme People's Assembly is not in session;
8. to organize the elections of deputies to the local People's Assemblies;
9. to do the work of the judges and people's assessors of the Central Court.
Article 83
The Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly adopts decisions.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Article 84
The President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is elected by the Supreme People's Assembly. The term of office of the President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is four years. The President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is the Head of State and represents the State power of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Article 85
The President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea exercises the following functions and powers:
1. to appoint or remove Vice-Presidents, Ministers and other members of the Administration Council on the recommendation of the Premier of the Administration Council;
2. to appoint or recall ambassadors and ministers;
3. to appoint or remove high-ranking officers and confer titles of general;
4. to institute decorations, titles of honour, military titles and diplomatic grades and confer decorations and titles of honour;
5. to grant general amnesties;
6. to institute or change the administrative division;
7. to declare a state of war and issue mobilization orders in case of emergency.

Article 86
The President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea directly guides the Central People's Committee.

Article 87
The President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, when necessary, convenes and presides over meetings of the Administration Council. Such items can also be presented by deputies.

Article 88
The first session of the Supreme People's Assembly elects a Credentials Committee and decides on the recognition

of the qualifications of deputies according to the reports of this Committee.

Article 89
The laws, ordinances and decisions of the Supreme People's Assembly are adopted when more than half of the deputies present give approval by a show of hands. The Constitution is adopted or amended with the approval of more than two-thirds of the total number of deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly.

Article 90
The Supreme People's Assembly can establish a Budget Committee, a Bills Committee and other necessary Committees. The Committees of the Supreme People's Assembly assist in the work of the Supreme People's Assembly.

Article 91
The deputy to the Supreme People's Assembly is guaranteed inviolability as such. No deputy to the Supreme People's Assembly can be arrested without the consent of the Supreme People's Assembly or, when it is not in session, of its Standing Committee.

Article 92
The Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly is a permanent body of the Supreme People's Assembly. The Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly is composed of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Secretary and members. The Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Supreme People's Assembly are elected by the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly. The Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly exercises the following functions and powers:
1. to examine and decide on the Bills when the Supreme People's Assembly is not in session and to obtain the approval of the next session of the Supreme People's Assembly;
2. to amend the laws and ordinances in force; when the Supreme People's Assembly is not in session and to obtain the approval of the next session of the Supreme People's Assembly;
3. to interpret the laws and ordinances in force;
4. to convene the session of the Supreme People's Assembly;
5. to conduct the election of deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly;
6. to do the work with the deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly;
7. to work with the Committees of the Supreme People's Assembly when the Supreme People's Assembly is not in session;
8. to organize the elections of deputies to the local People's Assemblies;
9. to do the work of the judges and people's assessors of the Central Court.
Article 93
The Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly adopts decisions.

THE CENTRAL PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE

Article 94
The Central People's Committee is the highest leadership organ of State power in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Article 95
The Central People's Committee is headed by the President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Article 96
The Central People's Committee is composed of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Secretary and members of the Central People's Committee. The term of office of the Central People's Committee is four years.

Article 97
The Central People's Committee exercises the following functions and powers:
1. to direct the work of the Administration Council and the People's Committees;
2. to direct the work of judicial and procuratorial organs;
3. to guide the work of national defence and State political security;
4. to supervise the execution of the Constitution, the laws and ordinances of the Supreme People's Assembly, the orders of the President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the decrees and directives of the Central People's Committee, and to annul the decisions and directives of State organs which contravene them;
5. to establish or abolish ministries, respective executive bodies of the Administration Council;
6. to appoint or remove Vice-Presidents, Ministers and other members of the Administration Council on the recommendation of the Premier of the Administration Council;
7. to appoint or recall ambassadors and ministers;
8. to appoint or remove high-ranking officers and confer titles of general;
9. to institute decorations, titles of honour, military titles and diplomatic grades and confer decorations and titles of honour;
10. to grant general amnesties;
11. to institute or change the administrative division;
12. to declare a state of war and issue mobilization orders in case of emergency.

Article 98
The Central People's Committee adopts decrees and decisions and issues directives.

Article 99
The Central People's Committee establishes a Domestic Policy Commission, a Foreign Policy Commission, a National Defence Commission, a Justice and Sections of the Central People's Committee are appointed or removed by the Central People's Committee to assist in its work. The members of the Commission, and other members of the Central People's Committee.

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Article 106 The Central People's Committee is responsible to the Supreme People's Assembly for its activities.

THE ADMINISTRATION COUNCIL

Article 107 The Administration Council is the administrative and executive body of the highest organ of State power.

Article 108 The Administration Council works under the guidance of the President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Central People's Committee.

Article 109 The Administration Council exercises the following functions and powers: 1. to direct the work of Ministries, organs directly under its authority and local administrative committees;

Article 110 The Administration Council convenes the Plenary Meeting and the Permanent Commission.

Article 111 The Plenary Meeting of the Administration Council discusses and decides on new, important problems arising in State administration.

Article 112 The Administration Council adopts decisions and issues directives.

Article 113 The Administration Council bears responsibility for its work before the Supreme People's Assembly, the President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Central People's Committee.

Article 114 The Ministry is an executive body of the Administration Council. The Ministry issues directives.

THE LOCAL PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY, PEOPLE'S COMMITTEES AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Article 115 The People's Assemblies of the province (or municipality directly under central authority), city (or district) and county are local organs of power.

Article 116 The local People's Assembly is composed of the deputies elected on the principle of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot.

Article 117 The term of office of the People's Assembly of the province (or municipality directly under central authority) is four years, and that of the People's Assemblies of the city (or district) and county is two years.

Article 118 The local People's Assembly exercises the following functions and powers: 1. To approve the local plan for the development of the national economy;

Article 119 The local People's Assembly convenes regular and extraordinary sessions.

Article 120 The local People's Assembly needs more than half of the deputies to meet.

Article 121 The local People's Assembly elects its Chairman.

Article 122 The local People's Assembly adopts decisions on the local People's Committee.

Article 123 The local People's Committees of the province (or municipality directly under central authority), city (or district) and county are the local organs of power that function when the People's Assemblies at the corresponding levels are not in session.

Article 124 The local People's Committee is composed of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Secretary and members.

Article 125 The local People's Committee exercises the following functions and powers: 1. To convene the session of the People's Assembly;

Article 126 The local People's Committee adopts decisions and issues directives.

Article 127 The local People's Committee is responsible for its work to the corresponding People's Assembly and the People's Committees at higher levels.

Article 128 The Administrative Committees of the province (or municipality directly under central authority), city (or district) and county are administrative and executive bodies of the local power organs.

Article 129 The local Administrative Committee consists of the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Secretary and members.

Article 130 The local Administrative Committee exercises the following functions and powers: 1. to organize and carry out all administrative affairs in the area concerned;

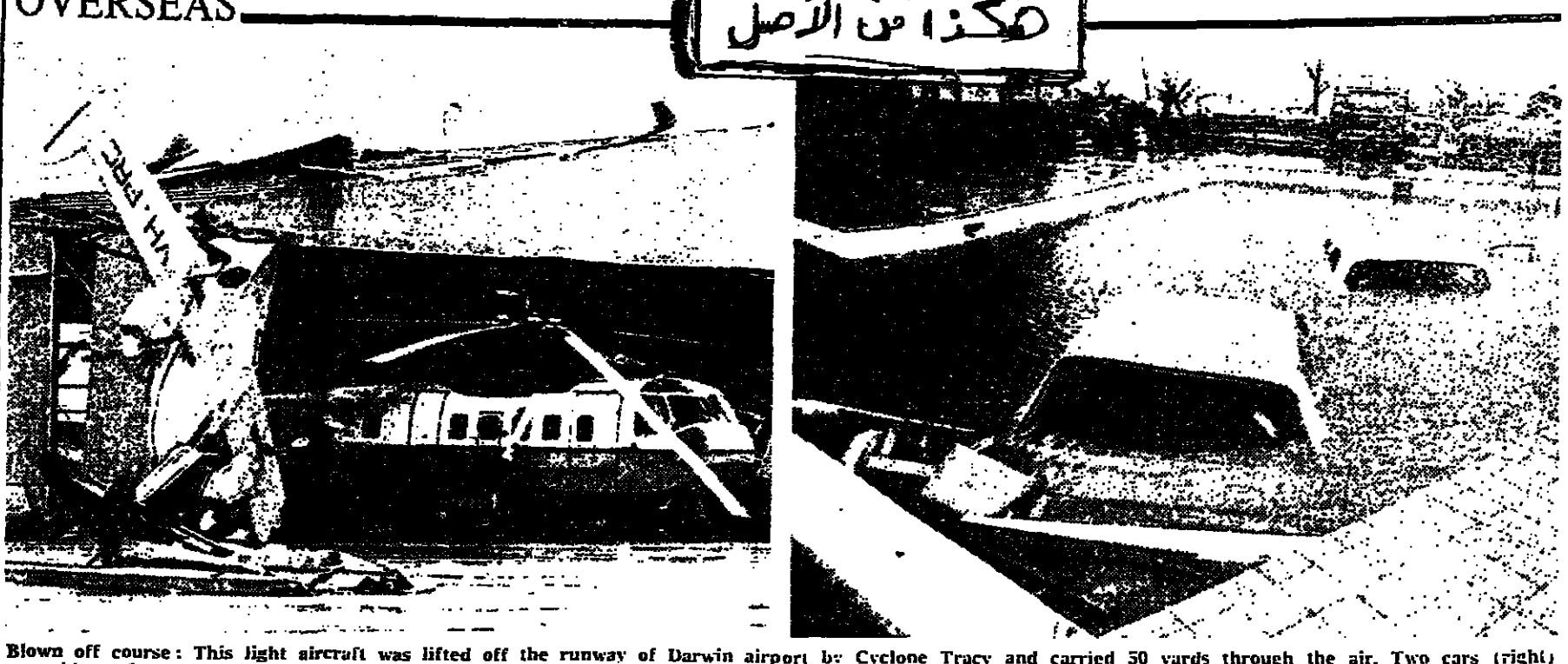
Article 131 The local Administrative Committee adopts decisions and issues directives.

Article 132 The local Administrative Committee is responsible for its work to the People's Assembly and the People's Committee at the corresponding level.

Article 133 Justice is administered by the Central Court, the Court of the province (or municipality directly under central authority) and the Special Court.

Article 134 The judges and people's assessors of the Court of the province (or municipality directly under central authority) and the People's Court are elected by the People's Assembly at the corresponding level.

Article 135 The term of office of judges and people's assessors is the same as that of the People's Assembly at the corresponding level.



Blown off course: This light aircraft was lifted off the runway of Darwin airport by Cyclone Tracy and carried 50 yards through the air. Two cars (right) were blown from a car park into the swimming pool of a motel.

Stories of cyclone survivors

Continued from page 1

A Red Cross ambulance driver, Mr Herman Haslmayer, spoke of the injured he had been bringing to hospital.

One man had had lacerations and bruises and his foot was cut off. We took him to hospital but I think he died after."

Mrs Norma Walker, of the badly hit suburb of Nightcliff, watched her car turn head over heels up the road as the cyclone struck.

She said her house had been almost completely destroyed and groups of people were making communal barbecues to cook their food and boil water.

A general notice has gone out to Darwin residents not to drink any tap water without boiling it.

Mrs Walker said that after the cyclone people at first moved round in shock. They did not talk to each other or even appear to be ready to clean up.

After the initial shock, however, groups were quickly set up to help the injured and the dying.

Mrs Julie Callian, of the northern suburb of Moil, said that what was left of her house was the floor.

She is due to be evacuated to Adelaide with her seven-week-old son, but her husband is a post office technician and is working on restoring communications out of the city—AP and Reuters.

Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes: Mr Gough Whitlam, the Australian Prime Minister, who left London for Darwin yesterday, will make a tour of

disaster area today. A special Cabinet meeting is to be held in Sydney on Monday.

The Queen has sent a message of sympathy to the Governor-General of Australia, and Mr Wilson sent a personal note to Mr Whitlam on Christmas Day expressing his distress.

So far no British casualties have been reported.

Mr Whitlam's European tour will be continued by Mr Lionel Bowen, Special Minister of State and Minister Assistant to the Prime Minister. He will leave London for Sicily today.

In London, the Australia House switchboard and information office were manned specially over Christmas to deal with calls from British people with relatives in Darwin.

A press officer said: "The number of calls runs into thousands. Normally there would only be a porter on duty on Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Five members of the Australia information service came in to deal with the flood of calls, and we have several girls on the switchboard."

"Unfortunately there is nothing much we can tell people yet—except to wait and hope."

People in Britain wanting to inquire about relatives in Darwin are asked to ring 557 and then ask for Telex number 62004 where a message about their inquiry will be taken.

Pseudo-Arab shepherded from White House

From Patrick Brogan Washington, Dec 26 Mr Marshall Fields, who crashed into the grounds of the White House yesterday and threatened to blow himself up, is now in the care of the psychiatrists of a local hospital.

The Secret Service had treated him with great gentleness. They merely waited for him to get tired of holding his hands in the air, like Moses on the Sinai, and then they lowered his arms, wires he was holding would detonate the explosives which filled bags at his feet and hanging around his neck. There were no explosives.

The White House now needs a new gate. The ornamental ironwork operated automatically from a little kiosk, proved quite inadequate to stop Mr Fields's car.

Mr Allon lays down withdrawal conditions

From Moshe Brilliant Tel Aviv, Dec 26

Mr Allon, the Israel Foreign Minister, tonight listed five "assumptions" which he said will guide his Government in negotiating Egyptian strategic and political concessions in return for a further Israel pull back in occupied Sinai.

The assumptions, as enumerated in a lecture in Tel Aviv University, were: 1. The agreement must be based on "mutual concessions and will represent an additional and meaningful step towards peace."

The Minister did not mention the concessions expected from Egypt but these were understood to include the passage of Israel goods through the reopened Suez Canal, an easing of political and economic boycott and tourist travel between the countries.

2. The redeployment after the Israel withdrawal must leave Israel forces in the Sinai, strategic lines." He said he could not give details of topography and conditions but he observed, "The depth of the Israeli withdrawal would be proportional to the scope and significance of Egyptian commitments."

3. Demilitarization of evacuated areas and other arrangements to prevent surprise attacks.

4. Israel will retain areas of importance to Egypt to give Cairo an incentive to "strong strategic lines."

5. The parties must undertake to enter a situation of "controlled ceasefire" when the period of the proposed interim agreement expires until the conclusion of negotiations on the present agreement.

The Foreign Minister said the interim arrangements should be negotiated through the United States and he opposed the convening of the Geneva conference at this time.

Multilateral negotiations in Geneva would only cause all the Arab delegations to align with the most extreme, he said. Moreover, the Arabs would demand the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel would invoke its rights to refuse the admission of additional participants.

In brief New Egyptian War Minister

Cairo, Dec 26.—Lieutenant-General Abdul Ghani Gamasi, the Egyptian Chief of Staff, has been appointed war minister in succession to Field Marshal Ahmed Ismail, who died in London yesterday.

The Middle East news agency said: President Sadat will swear in General Gamasi tomorrow. Obituary, page 10

Rhodesia killings

Pretoria, Dec 26.—Guerrillas have killed four members of the South African police force serving in Rhodesia and wounded a fifth. The news came two weeks after Mr Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, announced a ceasefire with the country's black nationalist groups.

Disneyland charge

Santa Barbara, California, Dec 26.—Craig Douglas Hasler, aged 24, is in custody charged with threatening to set off seven bombs in Disneyland in California and another seven at Disneyland in Florida unless he received about £13m.

Mr Miki's money

Tokyo, Dec 26.—Mr Takeo Miki, the new Japanese Prime Minister, today made public a list of his personal assets in accordance with a pledge he made when he took office on December 9. His bank balance stands at ¥9,200.

Two-to-one victory

Concord, New Hampshire, Dec 26.—The closest Senate race in United States history has ended with a victory for a Republican candidate, Mr Louis Wyman, over Mr John Durkin, a Democrat. Two votes divided them.

Bosphorus passage

Istanbul, Dec 26.—A Soviet cruiser steamed through the Bosphorus today, bringing to four the number of Soviet warships to cross from the Black Sea into the Mediterranean in the past 24 hours.

Attempt to kill king

Katmandu, Dec 26.—Security forces killed 16 people after a hand grenade exploded near King Birendra in a remote forest area on Christmas Eve.

New space laboratory

Moscow, Dec 26.—The Soviet Union today launched an orbiting space laboratory, Salyut 4, as the six-month mission of its predecessor came to an end.

Rebellious prisoners free nine hostages

Lorton, Virginia, Dec 26.—Rebellious inmates at a prison near Washington today released unharmed all nine prison officers they held hostage after receiving promises of prison reform and assurances that they would not be prosecuted for their riot.

Miss Kathy Ross, speaking on behalf of the city of Washington, which operates the prison in the Virginia suburbs for maximum security purposes, said the inmates returned to their cells in the afternoon, ending the two-day siege.

The prisoners were promised that the city of Washington would not initiate any retaliatory action against them and that the federal Government would not take any action without first consulting the city.

Miss Ross also said that the prisoners were promised there would be improvements in prison life, including better health and education services.

The 85 prisoners seized the officers on Christmas night during a film show in the dining hall. Five prisoners were killed in the riot. One was shot and later found dead, but the three others were still at large today.—Reuter.

Signs point to change in Hungary

By Paul Neuburg The Hungarian party leadership is making efforts to reassure Hungary and the rest of the world that it intends no leftward lurch in its policies at next spring's eleventh party congress, preparations for which are now well under way.

Official commentaries emphasize that though new problems call for new solutions, the party must examine its work critically, its basic line will remain the same.

The chief worry Hungarians have is that Mr Janos Kadar, who is 62 and in bad health, may relinquish his post as first secretary of the party at the congress, and that this may herald a more hardline era. Installed by the Russians after they suppressed the uprising of 1956, Mr Kadar has since emerged as a relatively popular leader by evolving a regime flexible and dynamic in the economy and relaxed in administrative methods and in culture.

The sudden removal of three important reformers from key posts last March has prompted fears of a change in the party line, under pressure from conservatives in Hungary and neighbouring Warsaw Pact countries.

Chairman Mao is 81 Peking, Dec 26.—Chairman Mao Tse-tung was 81 today. The event was not reported in the Chinese press, however.

Talk of a change of generations is likely to send shivers down not a few spines in Hungary. The country's last big shake-up occurred in 1956-57, and even the people who rose to leading positions in the second wave of de-Stalinization in the early sixties now have a younger generation waiting to see them go.

The removal in March of Mr Rezo Nyers, Mr Gyorgy Aczel and Mr Lajos Fehér from their key positions in charge of the economy, ideological affairs and agriculture was, in fact, greeted by many people in these spheres as likely to provide new job opportunities for the young—by which those hopeful meant themselves, already in their later thirties if not early forties.

Their outlook may differ from those of Mr Nyers and Mr Fehér only in being another kind of pragmatism. There is no evidence so far of a new generation of doctrinaire centralists in Hungary.

But the problems which the new mixture of people will have to face, as well as the present drive for confederation in Russia's domain, are likely to provoke more orthodox solutions than have been usual in Hungary especially since the reform year of 1968.

Soviet peasants allowed freedom of movement

Moscow, Dec 26.—The Soviet Union, in what Western diplomatic sources said was a sweeping liberalization measure, announced today that internal passports will be granted to all adult citizens.

The measure affects about 46 million collective farm workers, who were denied such documents in the past and so effectively tied to their work on the land.

A Western diplomat said: "This is a great step up for them. They have been virtually second class citizens in the past."

Soviet citizens are not permitted to travel inside the Soviet Union without an internal passport. Until now these passports have been restricted to inhabitants of the cities, apparently for fear that there would be defections from the arduous life of the collective farm if peasants received freedom of movement.

Newspapers said citizens would still have to register when they move about, but future documentation would be less rigorous. Mr Nikolai Shekolov, Minister of the Interior, said the changes reflected "the profound democratism of our society."

Tass reported that the decision was taken by the Central Committee of the Communist Party and the Council of Ministers. The changes would be implemented during the period from January 1, 1976, to December 31, 1981.

The new passports will be valid for life as compared to the present passports which must be changed at certain intervals.

They will be produced in the Russian language and the language of the Soviet Republic of which the holder is a member. The "nationality" listed will be that of the republic.

Thus a citizen of the Ukrainian Soviet Republic will have his nationality listed as Ukrainian and a passport in his native language as well as Russian.

Western observers regard this as a victory for the republics against moves to have every citizen's nationality described simply as "Soviet."

A proposal to reform the passport system was mooted December 13, but the case against Dr Shtern was nothing out of the ordinary.

However, it had aroused the interest of those who wished to raise slander and "unhealthy agitation" against the Soviet Union. Jewish activists have maintained the case against Dr Shtern was connected with the application of his two sons to emigrate to Israel.

According to Mr Goldfarb, who travelled to Vinnitsa with two Moscow activists to observe the trial, the prosecutor had reported the points contained in the initial charge. These included allegations that Dr Shtern accepted bribes to pronounce a young man too ill to serve in the Army, and that he demanded inflated prices for medicines.—Reuter.

Briton escapes Argentine kidnap attempt

Buenos Aires, Dec 26.—A policeman died and another was injured during a fierce gun battle with the would-be kidnapers of two business executives near Buenos Aires today.

Police said the two businessmen, Mr Henry George Sharod, from England, and Mr Julian Luis Bisschot, from Belgium, escaped unharmed when they climbed a four-storey building through a road block set up by a gang of 15 armed kidnapers.

The executives work for the Anglo-Dutch company Unilever. Members of the gang chased the car at high speed to the gates of the Unilever factory.

The gang opened fire on a police car which had been detailed to follow the two executives after they received kidnap threats.—Reuter.

Nine years demanded for Dr Shtern

Moscow, Dec 26.—The prosecutor in the case against Dr Mikhail Shtern, who is on trial in the Ukrainian town of Vinnitsa, today demanded that he be sentenced to nine years in a strict regime labour camp, Jewish sources said. Dr Shtern, who is 56, is charged with bribery and swindling.

In a telephone call from Vinnitsa, Mr Alexander Goldfarb told journalists here that the prosecutor had told the court, which has been sitting since December 13, that the case against Dr Shtern was nothing out of the ordinary.

However, it had aroused the interest of those who wished to raise slander and "unhealthy agitation" against the Soviet Union. Jewish activists have maintained the case against Dr Shtern was connected with the application of his two sons to emigrate to Israel.

According to Mr Goldfarb, who travelled to Vinnitsa with two Moscow activists to observe the trial, the prosecutor had reported the points contained in the initial charge. These included allegations that Dr Shtern accepted bribes to pronounce a young man too ill to serve in the Army, and that he demanded inflated prices for medicines.—Reuter.

500 pigeons shot

Tokyo, Dec 26.—Despite protests by bird lovers and environmentalists, officials at the port city of Yokohashi shot about 500 pigeons yesterday.

EMBLEM, FLAG AND CAPITAL

Article 147 The national emblem of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is adorned with the design of a grand hydro-electric power plant under the beaming light of five-pointed stars, overlaid and framed with ears of rice bound with a red band bearing the inscription "Democratic People's Republic of Korea"

Article 148 The national flag of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has a broad red stripe in the middle with three white stripes over and under it and is hemmed in the outermost parts with blue stripes. In the red part of the flag there is a five-pointed red star in a white circle next to the staff.

Article 149 The ratio of the width to the length is 1:2. The capital of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is Pyongyang.

THE COURT AND THE PROCURATOR'S OFFICE

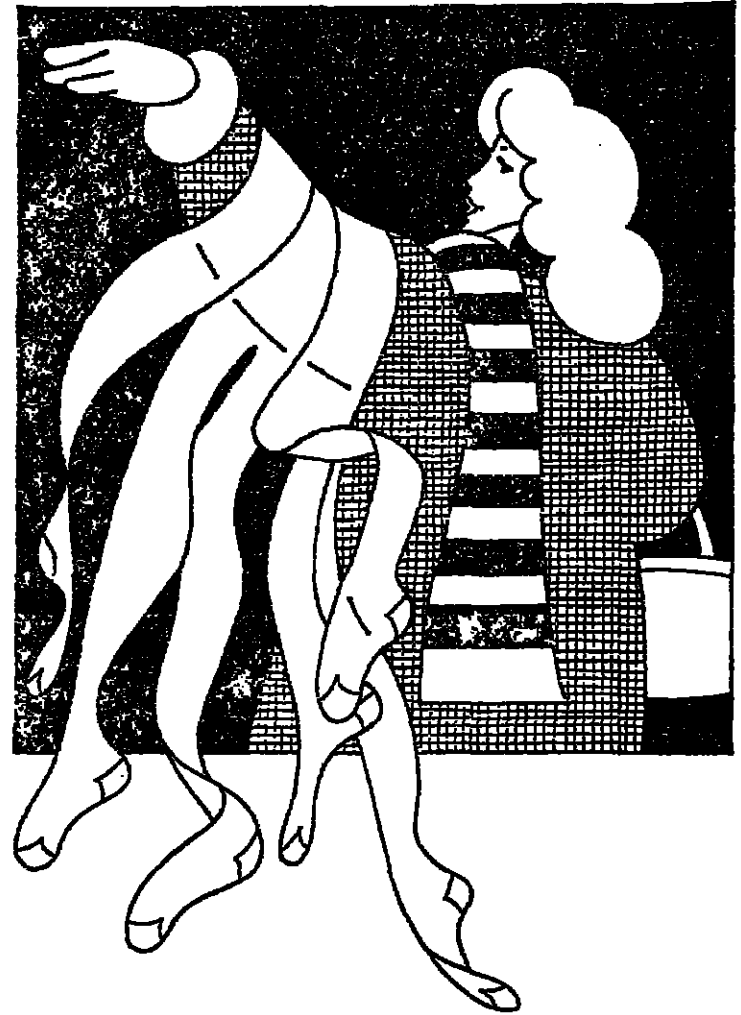
Article 133 Justice is administered by the Central Court, the Court of the province (or municipality directly under central authority) and the Special Court. Verdict is delivered in the name of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Article 134 The judges and people's assessors of the Court of the province (or municipality directly under central authority) and the People's Court are elected by the People's Assembly at the corresponding level.

Article 135 The term of office of judges and people's assessors is the same as that of the People's Assembly at the corresponding level.

Barkers Sale starts tomorrow open 9-6. Special Purchase Chateau-bottled CLARET. Well below today's usual prices. CHATEAU GROS MOULIN 1970. Cotes de Bourg. Bottle... £1.50. 12-bottle case... £17.00. CHATEAU LOGAT 1969 Haut Medoc. Bottle... £1.60. 12-bottle case... £18.00. CHATEAU LARQUE 1969 St. Emilion. Bottle... £1.75. 12-bottle case... £20.00. Free delivery in our van area. Barkers, Kensington, High St. W8 5SE. 01-837 5427. Monday - Friday 9-5.30. Thursday 9-7. Saturday 9-0.

Sheila Black: A practical woman's guide to the sales



Bargains—the world is either going to be buried in history because there is no longer any such thing as a bargain in these inflationary times, or it must be appraised in relation to the astronomical cost of non-bargains.

There are other reasons for the stockpile which now has to be reduced. Early in 1974 the three-day week hit production in many sectors and, combined with world shortages of raw materials and other components, led to severe shortages.

Labour is an expensive element in all production, now adding even more fuel to the fire of inflation than oil prices. Higher rates for shopkeepers and manufacturers or the soaring cost of nationalized industry services. Not only have wage claims, especially those agreed since the demise of the Pay Board last summer, pushed up prices rapidly; but there is an equalization of women's pay which, lagging during the past year, has to be implemented within the next 12 months.

China involves a great deal of manual labour and especially of women's labour, as do clothes and household hardware like pots, pans, plastic wares and even brooms and brushes (bristles may be short). Besides the labour costs, all these household goods are subject to raw materials costing more and to shortages.

Obviously, the more expensive you purchase, the more you are likely to save at the sales. Men's suits are about 30 per cent cheaper than in November and knitwear is likewise cheaper, thanks to a mild, if wet, winter so far.

Finally, it is as well to remember the eroding value of money. What will your £ buy in twelve months' time? Thus, if prices rise by a fifth and the value of the £ falls by that much—although the arithmetic obviously varies from one product or service to another—you are wise to buy now if you can.

BUSINESS NOTICES

MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS MANAGERS... NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE DISTRICT COUNCIL BILLS

CONTRACTS AND TENDERS... DEMOCRATIC AND POPULAR REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA... NOTICE OF EXTENSION

COMPANY MEETING NOTICES

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS LIMITED

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary General Meeting of Cold Storage Holdings Limited will be held at the Hotel...

ORDINARY RESOLUTIONS... That the share capital of the Company be increased to £5,000,000...

17th December, 1974. A Member of the Company entitled to attend and vote at this meeting may appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his stead.

DRAWING OF BONDS

NORWEGIAN STATE & MUNICIPAL POWER CONSORTIUM

SIRA-KVINA-KRAFTSELSKAP U.S.S.10,000,000 6 3/4% 10 YEAR EXTERNAL LOAN OF 1967

Hambros Bank Limited hereby give notice that, in accordance with the terms of the prospectus...

BONDS OF \$1,000

Table with columns for bond numbers and values, ranging from 100 to 1000.

Finally, it is as well to remember the eroding value of money. What will your £ buy in twelve months' time? Thus, if prices rise by a fifth and the value of the £ falls by that much...

Sheila Black: A practical woman's guide to the sales... Bargains—the world is either going to be buried in history because there is no longer any such thing as a bargain in these inflationary times...

PLANT AND MACHINERY

WANTED: second hand Caterpillar 1000 loader, P.O. Box 2000, South, Nairobi.

CONTRACTS & TENDERS

THE COMMON SERVICES AGENCY FOR THE SERVICE... The Common Services Agency for the Scottish Health Services...

GENERAL VACANCIES

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SECRETARIAL AND GENERAL APPOINTMENTS also on page 16

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CINEMAS

ABC 2 AIRPORT 1974
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THE ARTS

Still a Hecht of a good story

The Front Page (aa)
Universal
Bring me the Head of Alfredo Garcia (x)
London Pavilion
Freebie and the Bean (x)
Warner West End



Walter Matthau and Jack Lemmon

Once a good script, always a good script. Ben Hecht wrote The Front Page, with Charles MacArthur, in 1928 and it was first produced at the Times Theatre on August 14 of that year.

The first film version in 1931, directed by Lewis Milestone and produced by Howard Hughes (no less, with Adolphe Menjou and Pat O'Brien as the editor and his recalcitrant star reporter, started a whole cycle of newspaper films.

David Robinson

divine in Juarez, Mexico. He snatches at the chance to earn 10,000 dollars offered for the head of one Alfredo Garcia. Cheap-skate that he is, Bennie knows in advance from his Mexican girlfriend that Garcia is already safely dead and buried.

With his girl he sets out on the necessary fact-finding, but discovers, bloodily, that he is not the only one after the head. Intrigued to know why this disagreeable relic should have such high commercial value, he eliminates a whole series of middle-men, until he finally confronts El Jefe, a Mexican landowner who is ready to give the units for a violated his innocent daughter.

Autosacramentales

Round House
Irving Wardle
For some time this theatrical Snark has been evading its hunters. Reviewers who trailed it to the Shiraz Festival found a sulky cast playing in complicity on the site of Persepolis.

Young muffs

The Adventures of a Three Guinea Watch
By Talbot Baines Reed
Talbot Baines Reed was the man who wrote The Fifth Form at St Dominic's but this fictional biography of a silver plated fob watch who was pensioned off after valiant service at the relief of Lucknow, was his first book.

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In the interval of Keith Dewhurst's 10-year-old daughter, Faith, loudly proclaimed that Lancelot was not handsome enough (I disagree) and that Excalibur should have stuck more firmly in the scabbard.

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THE GOOD COMPANIONS

THE GOOD COMPANIONS
This advertisement is for a production of 'The Good Companions' at the London Pavilion.

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This advertisement is for a production of 'The Good Companions' at the London Pavilion.

Some of the notices on this page are reprinted from Tuesday's later editions.

Why a British military presence is welcome in one part of the Middle East

Despite the recent protest by 84 Labour MPs at the presence of British troops in Oman, and the opposition of some oil producing states such as Libya and Iraq, there is little doubt that the traditional connexion between London and Muscat is as close as ever.

In his statement on defence expenditure marked by substantial cutbacks, Mr Roy Mason's declaration on Oman was a notable exception: "We do not think," he said, "it would be right in present circumstances to make any changes in the arrangements we have with the Sultan of Oman."

Mr Mason's announcement and the recent visit by the Chancellor to Saudi Arabia confirm that, despite a formal end to the British presence in the Arabian peninsula, economic and military ties are still strong and have, with the oil boom, even increased.

There are now several hundred British personnel working on defence contracts in Saudi Arabia, and in Oman an estimated 300 military personnel provide an officer backbone to the Sultan's armed forces.

There are also about 1,500 British civilians in the Sultanate helping with development projects, and a number of British firms are building up the

security infrastructure: Wimpsey are building a £5m military base at Iqbi, in the northern interior; Taylor Woodrow have carried out several defence projects in Dhofar; Costains have recently completed the £1.3m police stadium outside Muscat.

The Sultan, whose revenues are rising from about £55m in 1973 to an estimated £400m next year, has significantly increased his land and air attack on the guerrillas in Dhofar, and recently purchased Jaguar jet aircraft and Rapier anti-aircraft missiles for a total of £92m.

Yet, although he relies on the British military personnel and on the large Iranian counter-insurgency force dispatched in December 1973, Sultan Qabus is favoured by some conservative Arab states, and in particular Saudi Arabia. These states view the continuation of the Dhofar guerrilla movement with disquiet, and give intense if tacit approval to Britain's role. The public espousal of Arab nationalism restrains them from any overt military action, but there is no doubt that in private they would be concerned at a British military departure from the region.

The main support for the guerrillas has come from South Yemen, a country which has

'Some conservative Arab states view the continuation of the Dhofar guerrilla movement with disquiet, and give intense if tacit approval to Britain's role'

close ties with both China and Russia. The President of South Yemen, Saleem Robea Ali, was recently in Peking, and the redoubtable Admiral Gorskov, chief of the Soviet navy, was in Aden last week. South Yemen's policies, and those of the Oman guerrillas, have recently been in the process of change. In the past the People's Front for the Liberation of Oman and the Arab Gulf called for guerrilla struggle throughout the Arab states of the Gulf, and in 1971 South Yemen, alone of all Arab states, refused to recognize Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates when they assumed independence from Britain.

However, the intervention of Iran in the Dhofar war and the limitation of guerrilla war to Oman itself has led to a modification in policy. In July the guerrillas announced that from now on the different sections of the organization would be granted "independence" and a new People's Front for the Liberation of Oman and the Arab Gulf was set up, with a natural headquarters in Dhofar, but to do so peacefully. Guerrilla actions were to be confined to the fight against the Sultan of Oman.

The PFLO's declared aims

are the withdrawal of all foreign troops, the release of political prisoners (they claim there are 800), and the establishment of a democratic political system which will supersede the present rule of the Sultan.

The South Yemenis have also announced their new policy. In a speech on November 30, the seventh anniversary of the departure of British forces from Aden, President Saleem Robea, a former guerrilla in Radfan and Crater, stressed the need to build friendly relations with Arab states in the Gulf.

Relations with Kuwait are already good, he said, and "it is inevitable that we should negotiate and establish relations with the United Arab Emirates and some Gulf states" as well. Such relations would have to be based on "non-interference in each other's internal affairs". Relations were also possible with Saudi Arabia, provided the latter ceased organizing border raids by South Yemeni exiles.

The South Yemeni president stressed that his government was concentrating on opposition to foreign troops in Oman, something he blamed personally on the policies of Sultan Qabus. The South Yemenis hope that by appealing to other Arab governments, in-

cluding such rulers as Shaikh Zaid of Abu Dhabi, they can increase diplomatic pressure on Sultan Qabus.

Relations between the two states remain, however, extremely bad: while South Yemen supports the guerrillas, Oman has recently built a £10m air and infantry base at Thaurit near the Yemeni border.

Iranian Phantom jets have been stationed there, and it is improbable that the Sultan's new Jaguars and Rapiers will face any enemy other than South Yemen.

Earlier this year the Arab League launched a mediation attempt and set up an investigating committee representing six Arab states: Algeria, Tunisia, Kuwait, Egypt, Syria and Libya. They all recognize the Sultan, while Algeria and Libya allow PFLO representatives to work in their capitals.

So far, the committee has visited Muscat but has declined the guerrillas' repeated invitation to visit the area they hold, and it is believed that pressure from Saudi Arabia has led the League to discontinue its efforts.

No doubt similar pressure will be exerted on the Labour Government to maintain involvement in Oman as long as hostilities there continue.

Fred Halliday

Who will take responsibility for our art treasures?

Government policy, in connection with its proposal not to exclude works of art from the wealth tax, appears to envisage the passage of a form of long-term cryopreservation of large numbers of such works into public possession.

It is relevant and timely, therefore, to consider the facilities which the public sector is able to offer for the extension of its responsibilities which the impact of a wealth tax could entail.

Even before the wealth tax was mooted the deficiencies which existed in this sector were the subject of two recent reports which require re-examination.

In 1969 the Colouste Gulbenkian Foundation, in consultation with the Standing Commission on Museums and Galleries, invited Sir Colin Anderson to preside over a committee of senior members of the art world to consider the desirability of establishing in the United Kingdom an institute for training in the conservation of paintings and drawings; and the objects, size, organization, location and financial requirements of such an institute; and to make recommendations to the Government.

This committee collected together a vast body of evidence, from conservators and curators in the main, and this was distilled into the report which was published after considerable delays in the late summer of 1972.

In it the members of the committee made the error of failing to offer arguments as to why the government was, and is, directly involved in the foundation of a central institute of conservation which would be concerned primarily with the conservation of cultural property in the care of private owners and local authorities.

As no doubt the civil servants advising the then Minister for the Arts, Lord Eccles, were quick to point out, the absence of such an institution is not *per se* evidence for the desirability or necessity of establishing one with central government funds.

Owing to governmental pressure, hinted at in the introduction to the report, the committee's recommendations were arbitrarily limited to paintings and drawings, and although the necessity of establishing a broader based institute appears to have been accepted, at least in principle, by the members, no attempt was made to revise the terms of reference or to recommend realistic specifications even for an institute limited to paintings and drawings.

Without the statutory provision the recommendations made by the Wright committee were barely worth the paper on which they were written: the estimated cost of production being £20,105. Lord Eccles immediately rejected the concept of a "housing the museums fund", and it is no surprise that Mr Hugh Jenkins with equal indifference ignores it.

Outside the scope of the Gulbenkian committee, the United Kingdom group of the International Institute of Conservation is preparing to publish the results of its inquiry into conservation resources within the United Kingdom, and this will give high priority to the appeal of a conservation crisis now experienced by British museums and art galleries.

Nevertheless, Mr Hugh Jenkins neglects to provide the leadership needed to move towards the foundation of adequate conservation facilities for the United Kingdom.

The claim of central government that its responsibilities for conservation of works of art are confined to the national museums, together with those services administered by the Department of the Environment, is patently untrue, if not a clearly defined legal responsibility for the maintenance of all works of art accepted by the Treasury in part payment of, or in lieu of, any taxes.

We as taxpayers have paid for these works of art out of central government revenue, and, whether they are now administered by the National Trust or by local authorities or any other bodies, substantial responsibility remains with central government. Thus Mr Jenkins is clearly answerable for the conservation of the very considerable number of major works of art which are already in the care of public and quasipublic bodies within the United Kingdom as a result of earlier finance Acts.

It is a pity that the maintenance of such works would ensue from an application of the wealth tax to works of art.

To date, Mr Hugh Jenkins has shown no signs of accepting his responsibilities, the Gulbenkian committee has failed to provide authoritative recommendations for the realising of the necessary conservators, and, through political and departmental pressures, the recommendations of the Wright committee have been emasculated.

Recommendations have been ignored

Since the initial flurry of interest there has been a deafening silence, and successive ministers for the arts, with the conspicuous exception of Mr Norman St John-Stevas, have either ignored the recommendations or claimed that the responsibility of the government is limited to the contents of the national museums.

Unfortunately the inadequacies in the drafting of the Gulbenkian report are such as to undermine its authority, and in the museum world an embarrassed silence continues to reign.

The second committee, under the chairmanship of Mr C. W. Wright of the Department of Education and Science, was formed at the behest of Lord Eccles—"to review the needs of the principal local museums and galleries in England, Scotland and Wales, with particular reference to the conservation and display of their collections and to links with related activities; and to make recommendations for improving the inter-relationship between the national museums and galleries with particular reference to specialist services."

Curiously only four out of 15 members of the committee had substantial experience of the principal local museums and galleries, and of the 36 museums in England, Scotland

Hugh Leggett

Part Five of a series on the past, present and future of East Asia A century of trial and error for the Japanese

Some readers of earlier articles in this series will have had hands up to register an objection. What, they may ask, is Japan doing in this company? If only a short answer is possible, it is that in all questions relevant to world understanding and interest, Japan does share the same attitudes.

The relations to western civilization since the confrontation first came about has not been resolved in Japan's case any more than in China's. The totality of the civilization, the belief in a distinct Japanese-ness, is affirmed despite the great weight of imports from the West—the Japanese have not got a Chinese pride in this. The self-enclosed attitude that makes explanation difficult and communication ineffective with outsiders is scarcely less than China's.

The preference for the collective and the lack of any cultivation of the individual—perhaps the true starting point for any comparison of East Asia and Western Europe—is less true of Japan than of China. As for the supremacy of government in all spheres of life, or the hierarchical and other characteristics of a Confucian society, it may be said that however much Japan has turned her back on China at different times in the past, the ideology and habits of the Confucian state were never so much adhered to as in the two centuries of Japanese history immediately preceding the Meiji era of reform.

One qualification that is necessary in considering Japan as a part of East Asia is the Japanese consciousness, throughout their history, that China was the source of civilized standards so that if the seeds of nationalism existed they germinated in this consciousness.

Following on its rapid modernization in the last decades of the nineteenth century, Japan sought at first to be accepted as an equal with the West—and what better mark of equality than the Anglo-Japanese alliance of 1902? Nevertheless for Japan, the East-West confrontation could not be fully resolved without Japan doing something about a decrepit, confused, hopelessly indecisive China in the first half of this century. When that policy crashed into the West and about China.

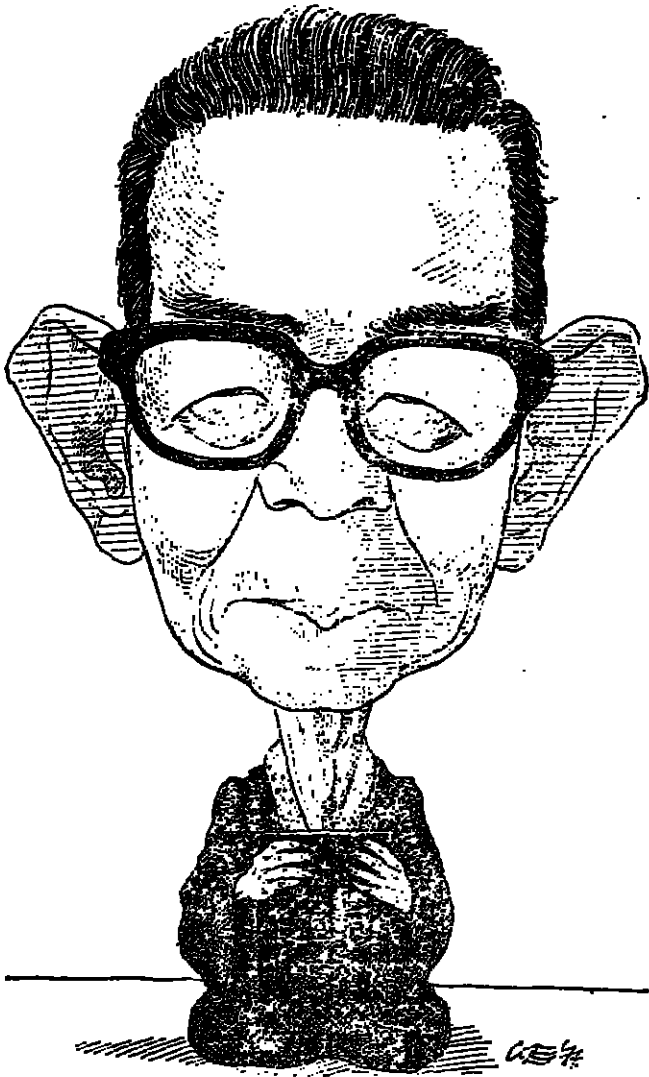
Perhaps one other objection to Japan's inclusion in the East Asian group must be met.

All three other countries dealt with—China, Korea and Vietnam—have communist governments contesting the claims of non-communist ones; if Japan is hovering now over a parting of the ways, might some such outcome be possible in Japan too? The answer is no.

In the other three countries the tide of nationalism was flowing strongly when the communist parties were launched and they all gained from it. This was not true of Japan. Nor has Japan in its acceptance of Confucian precepts ever included among them the justification of righteous rebellion against a corrupted Emperor: the Japanese have preferred to elevate their Emperors above human failings. Nor is there any part on the part of the Japanese of the role of revolutionary leadership. The Japanese Communist Party has specifically renounced violence: indeed, any hopeful westerner looking for signs of real liberal democracy growing in the infertile soil of East Asia might do worse than back the JCP.

No party in Japan has succeeded as Mao Tse-tung did in China in adapting Marxism to his country's revolutionary nationalist needs. The Japanese socialists have never translated their Marxism into Japanese terms any better than the communists and cannot now do so. The Komintern's efforts of the mass Soka Gakkai, is much more Japanese in spirit and manner but remains ephemeral in its response to particular social conditions. Yet Japan is at a cross-roads. The national bending to the circumstances of the postwar period has come to an end. Equality with the West by economic growth was an admirable national policy following on defeat and occupation by western power. The American relationship remains; the impetus to economic growth remains; but the questioning grows more insistent. What new goal will unite the nation?

How far does the new China promote Japanese anxiety? China as a nuclear power certainly does not. That in itself suggests a natural fellow feeling between the two countries. One added up the total of Japanese visitors to China in the past 25 years the total would probably exceed the number of visitors from all other countries in the world put together. Yet if one looks back after the past century it was China that traditionally had been contemptuous of the Japanese and Japan that very



Takeo Miki, Japan's new Prime Minister.

soon found in her own industrial and military prowess reasons for being contemptuous of China. Even in the 1950s the Japanese would still have looked upon China much as a high-powered executive of a western multi-national company might look upon some decadent European aristocrat opening his house to visitors to keep aloof: superior in most things that seemed to matter yet not quite able to dismiss aristocratic values.

By how much might those attitudes change? For, of course, it is China that dispenses a doctrine of the state that animates all its functions and its people. The Japanese went about their regeneration from the opposite end, arming

and industrializing with the utmost readiness to import from the West; it was the Chinese who even now, under Chairman Mao's exacting tutelage, are honing the doctrine as a priority over any rise in gross national product. Have the Japanese missed something? True, they have been fired by outbursts of spurious dedication to some indistinguishable Japanese spirit that warms the nationalist heart as with the Mishima suicide, but the plentiful right wing nostalgic romantics have not really got the makings of a national consensus.

In any case, if China does exert a pull on Japan, there is then a strong counter pull to the West, primarily to the Amer-

icans but also to the EEC, not to mention Siberian economic assets which the Russians offer as a lure. So much has Japan become part of the western economic success story, so tied in with western finance, currency, banking, aid and the rest that the industry might suggest an endless detour of any choice between East Asia and the West. Moreover with the hierarchical attitude Japan shares with China, who is on top and who below? It is inconceivable in Peking that China should ever be below, though the Chinese aware of a gap (secretly) at Japan's economic performance, just as the Japanese scurrying through the People's Republic gap (secretly) at the national moral assurance they find.

Whereas China's problem with the West remains in essentials what it was perceived to be 80 years ago, Japan's remains one directly linked to their own perceptions of China and the East Asian context. After 1949 American policy towards China enabled Japan to defer consideration of China. Now China is part of the Japanese problem. Yet involved as the two countries might have seemed, with the aggression and the wars of half a century, the truth is that Japan and China's understanding of each other falls far short of what it needs to be. A visceral sense of a common culture and values is not matched by a mutual clear-headed intellectual grasp; so different have the paths of the two countries been since the mid-nineteenth century.

If Japan is a country in search of a new national goal what will it be and how will they set about attaining it? The second part of the question can be answered with more assurance. At some point a national consensus will be arrived at. It will be in response to circumstances, such as the Japanese woke to in the shocking circumstances of defeat after 1945 and accepted as a bitter rival of China is herdest of all to accept.

What does remain true in the larger context of East Asia and the confrontation with the West is that Japan's resolution of the problem can hardly proceed except by some resolution of her own relations with China. As a sense of Japanese has been for them an unexpected situation to which their traditional book of rules could not apply, so the entire past century has been a hectic search by trial and error for new sets of rules."

Richard Harris

The coal merchant's son who gave us Guy's Hospital

When Thomas Guy died on December 27, 1724, he left a remarkable will, which was published and several times reprinted. There were more than a hundred substantial legacies to relatives, and others apparently not related; there were charitable legacies; and the residue of £230,000 went to the completion and endowment of his hospital.

For Guy has a memorial more lasting than his will, in a hospital that has made his name internationally known. Its foundation was the culmination of a long habit of charitable works.

In 1678 he had endowed and maintained an almshouse for poor women at Tamworth in Staffordshire, his mother's native town in which he had himself been educated; and he built a town hall there. Both town hall and almshouses are still functioning, the almshouses extensively rebuilt, but still administered as he provided.

He had released debtors and set them up in business. He had served as governor of St Thomas's Hospital, and provided and maintained three new wards there. He had sup-

ported the charities of the Stationers' Company, of which he was a liveryman. And in the last years of his life came the most ambitious of his charities.

Guy was born in about 1645 in Southwark, the son of a coal merchant and lighterman. It was after his father's death that his mother took him to Tamworth; and in 1660 he came back to London, apprenticed to a Cheapside bookseller.

In 1668 he set up in business on his own, and prospered, making his first appearance in public affairs a few years later in his involvement in the Bible dispute.

The King's printers objected to the publication of bibles by the University printers at Oxford, and to the import of English language bibles from Holland. Guy had a share in this trade, and he joined forces with the university printers to fight the attempts by the King's printers to undersell them. He, and they, were successful.

Guy lost his Oxford contract in 1691, but by then he was a comparatively wealthy man, and his London business continued to flourish. He was Member of Parliament for Tamworth for twelve years, to 1707, and prominent now in the Stationers' Company, was chosen as Sheriff. He pro-

ferred to pay the fine for not serving, perhaps putting economy before civic honour.

He is reputed to have enlarged his fortune by the purchase of seamen's tickets, the postdated instruments by which an indigent navy paid its ratings when cash was not available. The ratings or their dependants sold the tickets at what was often a substantial discount, and they were a usefully profitable investment for men who could afford to wait for payment. Not all had reforming zeal of Pepys had been able to pay sailors efficiently; and the mutinies at Spithead and the Nore were close on a century away.

There was a market in seamen's tickets in what was in effect the embryo stock exchange—and there was of course no overtone of the disapproval of such an investment that would be felt today. And a greater investment opportunity was at hand.

Fortunes were made as well as lost in 1720, the year in which the South Sea Bubble grew, and collapsed; and Guy was one who profited. He is said to have held £45,000 of the original South Sea stock, and he began to sell when it stood at 300, and he had sold all his holdings by the time it reached 600.

It was to go on up to 1,050, before relapsing, in four months, in a manner unpleasantly familiar to investors today, to 124 at Christmas. By then Guy had set about the establishment of his hospital.

It was to be a year after his death before the first patients were admitted, but he had seen his great foundation well on the way to completion. Long-dormant, reading his much publicized will, may well have been impressed by the diversity of his bounty—it included £1,000 for the discharge of poor debtors to the extent of not more than £5 each, and £400 a year to Christ's Hospital for the board and education of four poor children.

But the hospital was by far the most impressive gift from a man who had combined a shrewd business head and a degree of personal parsimony—he had been called the second meanest man in London—with a noble generosity of feeling for the unfortunate of his period. And indeed of posterity.

The Hospital, as London Bridge commuters pass near it daily, is something today that Guy could not imagine. But it is still Guy's.

How time and boredom are nibbling away at Nato

We have the worst social democratic party in Europe. Just as "renegotiation" is a sham, a device to overcome the divisions within the Labour Party over Europe, so Mr Roy Mason's defence review is an adhesive, a pot of glue, which, at the price of putting our security at risk, may bind together the splinters within Labour.

Mr Mason has claimed that "Nato remains the linch-pin of our security", while announcing reductions in defence spending which, even were his example not to be followed by our allies, must weaken the capacity of this country to wage war.

His argument about the proportion of the gross national product contributed by Britain and her allies is fallacious. We are in no position to claim that we contribute more than our fair share. We contribute considerably less than either France or Germany (67 per cent of German defence spending) and our figure is boosted by the fact of a professional army that carries with it a heavy burden of social welfare and education.

Why should our share be measured by the capacity of our friends rather than by the capabilities of our own? The truth is that Nato is being

nibbled at by time and boredom. What we want from Mr Mason is not just wish to achieve economy through standardization, essential though that is, but evidence that he is willing to take the initiative in overcoming Nato's weaknesses.

Admiral Hill Norton has spelled some of them out: there are serious deficiencies in Nato manning levels, reserve stocks, electronic warfare capabilities, air defence and anti-airborne warfare. The gap between Nato and the Warsaw Pact is widening to our disadvantage. Given the growing superiority in Soviet manpower, the Admiral's contention that the Russians need only one man in a support role, whereas Nato needs two, makes a mockery of a defence policy based ostensibly upon economy, but based in reality upon expediency.

After the invasion of Czechoslovakia, the alliance proved its forces under plan AD70. What is now wanted is an AD75 plan, that by taking into account inflation and increasing operating costs; will initiate a programme of specialization, rationalization and standardization.

Nato needs to standardize its military doctrine and training. It needs to standardize its equipment—at present there are 25 different types of aircraft, and 15 kinds of tank—

but most of all it needs to standardize its logistics. Greater effort is needed both in the establishment of reserves and in the construction of the full logistic support necessary to deploy reinforcements in sectors where they would be most likely to be needed. Nato's real weakness is the lack of compatibility and interoperability of its forces.

The point is that since the armies of various nations depend upon national lines of communication, and since their tactics, is not standardized, they cannot be deployed at a chosen place. The integration of operational planning and command and control has, as yet, no equivalent in the field of logistics. This puts a narrow limit on the flexibility of operational command and control.

At present, force levels are just adequate to ensure deterrence as required by a strategy of flexible response. Two factors work in our favour: rationalization, if it can be made to work; and the MBFR negotiations at Vienna. Were either to disappoint, and unilateral cuts in ready-forces take place, then Nato would be compelled to abandon its strategy.

Has Labour pondered the alternatives?

This could be a return to the "trip-wire" a strategy based upon the first and immediate use of nuclear weapons. Does anyone still believe that nuclear weapons deter anything save nuclear weapons? The decision to use nuclear weapons, either large or small would be indefinitely postponed. An alternative would be the substitution of a strategy based upon warning time.

Would warning time, however, be used with determination? Would the politicians take the measures necessary to overcome difficulties in deployment, and send for reinforcements, at a time of crisis? Would not the signals of Soviet intentions be filtered by our preconceptions? To adopt either "strategy" would be to disarm.

We have the worst social democratic party in Europe because its composition puts a premium upon party management. With the West in its present disparity, can we afford the luxury of concession and compromise?

Julian Critchley

Julian Critchley is the chairman of the defence committee of the Western European Union Assembly.

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A CASE FOR PARLEYING

Top people's pay is a matter of much contention now. The most highly paid people in medicine, the hospital consultants, are so dissatisfied with the Government's proposals for a new form of contract that they plan to work to rule and hire themselves back to the health service at £8 an hour outside the limited hours named in their contracts. Most of the strictures that we have made on similar activities by other groups in the health service this year have just as much force in relation to the doctors. It is not possible to apply disruptive tactics in hospital on any scale without putting the patients at risk. The consultants propose to hold themselves available for emergencies, but the distinction between urgent and non-urgent cases is not an infallible one, and long waiting for treatment (which such a tactic would certainly aggravate) can turn a minor case into a serious one.

Of course it is true that the Government has brought the situation upon itself to a great extent. Mrs Castle's touch in her dealings with the profession has not been at its most apt. In yielding to pressure of industrial action from hospital staff over that ideological talisman the pay, she enraged many doctors and reminded them that pressure could sometimes get quicker results than argument. But the consultants were already calling for a new contract before the Tory Government fell. In fact preliminary preparations had already been made for the work-to-rule dispute at once of claims either as proof of political bias on the part of the profession or that it is a special response to the intolerable provocations of Mrs Castle. In common with other highly paid workers in the public service, their grievance was that their relative status had declined. So it has, even more than that of doctors in general. Many of their discontents have more to do with the stress of working in old and under-financed hospitals than with pay. Many doctors would prefer to be paid so much for every item of service to the patient. It is a method with some drawbacks in its effects on the relationship between patient and doctor, and it conflicts with the idea that a professional man is paid well just because his responsibility cannot be measured in ounces or minutes. Nevertheless, it is not unreasonable for consultants to ask that some more account should be taken of their actual hours and workload. Junior hospital doctors already receive extra pay for working or being on call for very long hours.

The proposals that the Government has offered after eight months of negotiations meet this point, with special payments for emergency work at night and at weekends. It is because of the terms for private practice that the doctors' negotiators have found the plan objectionable. Naturally, given the attitude of the Minister, it sets out to encourage doctors to work full-time in the NHS. There are legitimate and illegitimate ways of doing that. It is legitimate for the service to pay full-timers something over the odds. In effect that is the present arrangement, for the weeks of thirty-eight and a half hours (paid at nine-elevenths of the rate) is little more than a figure of speech. Although the BMA bases its work-to-rule on those hours, any consultant with a maximum part-time contract has explicitly accepted that his NHS responsibilities will occupy "sub-

stantially the whole of his time". In fact, most consultants with or without private commitments work far more than thirty-eight hours a week in the NHS. Private work is for periods on call or off duty. The new proposals would offer consultants a similar choice in future, on a rather narrower basis. Existing contracts would continue to be honoured on their current terms.

An important difference between the new and old schemes is the distribution of distinction awards. At present they too often separate the tendency for some specialties to be more lucrative (and hence better staffed) than others where the opportunities for private practice are limited, such as geriatrics or mental disease. It is entirely right that any new arrangement should seek to redress this imbalance, which is one of the most serious adverse effects of the generally beneficial relation between private and public medicine. Mrs Castle proposes to redistribute future payments, although existing awards will continue to be paid. Part-time as well as full-time consultants will be eligible for the new supplements, but the whole of a man's private earnings will be subtracted from his payment. A slightly less drastic way of favouring the full-timer might be in order here.

But in the main the scheme seems to have little of the sinister aspect that the doctors allege. It does not take away the cherished liberty to do private work, and most consultants would probably find themselves better off under it. It constitutes no kind of justification for the action that the BMA proposes. If the fear is that at some future date the Government might try to impose a fully salaried service, that would do better to hold their fire till then.

OLD BOY NETWORKS HAVE THEIR VALUE

Like the Cheshire Cat, almost nothing is now visible of the Commonwealth except the grin. When the prime ministers and presidents have a summit meeting, as they did last year in Ottawa and will next year in Jamaica, there is a brief flurry of publicity. This, too, diminishes as the journalists in attendance find it harder to discover disruptive issues like Rhodesia or helicopters for South Africa which produce displays of bad temper or midnight conclaves with pressmen in hotel bedrooms. Proceedings (and communiqués) are becoming as bland as meetings of the IMF, which Commonwealth get-togethers at all levels tend to resemble.

Onlookers presume that the grin, too, will fade out, as political decisions that the Commonwealth can collectively take dwindle to nothing. Rhodesia is being settled (it is hoped) by the joint intervention of Mr Vorster and President Kaunda. In the India-Pakistan war the Commonwealth has had nothing in particular. Even Britain's sugar supplies become a matter for deals between the Common Market and the cane producers. The great issues of the day—oil prices, the international currency crisis, world inflation, a world slump—need to mention such perils as war in the Middle East—what say has the Commonwealth in these? Sixty years ago no great issue could be handled without involving the British Empire. Its component parts remain, but nobody apparently solicits the concurrence of the ex-British Commonwealth. How many battalions has Marlborough House?

The fact remains that the Commonwealth association is alive, active and ramifying. If it were more involved in overt political issues it might not be (though behind the scenes its officials do more than always shows). What preserves it is the very real and practical value that the officials, experts, contact men and ministers of its member governments find in its network of communications. It perfectly suits their purposes that it is now about as spectacular as a cooperative society. Without raising ghosts of imperialism or neocolonialism, much of the administrative and consultative machinery of the old Empire remains, based on common use of the English language and idiom and much common experience of British educational norms. It is, being based on top officialdom in large part, a smallish circle, so there is much first-name contact on international telephones. This is just what problem-beset or aid-seeking officials (especially in neophyte states) find so useful in the modern world. Everywhere in the Commonwealth somebody has experiences or facilities which somebody else somewhere else can use or adapt, and which can be tapped informally, without obligations to some log-rolling lobby or other, as in the United Nations.

Commonwealth meetings on a functional level increase and diversify because they prove fruitful and are well serviced. They are meetings of administrators and professional people—in finance, law, health and medicine, science and the environment, welfare and citizen-management—above all, of course, in trade, investment and technical assistance. This functional Commonwealth is the residuum of all that was usable in the old Empire, now developing new uses of its own.

That is the limit of its common interest, or unity. The legal conferences and training seminars for parliamentary draftsmen, for example, impartially serve a dic-

tatorship, a one-party state and a democracy. There are now no common institutions in which all believe. Even sentiment of kin and kin dissolves. There is no block, no regional grouping—such as the OAS, OAU or Opec—nothing much more than shared facilities. In the Commonwealth, however, the world's blocks and cartels find a meeting place—and Mr Gough Whitlam has emphasized this development in his recent urging that Britain can best serve other Commonwealth members by full participation in Europe's cooperative institutions.

It follows that those who want Britain out of the Common Market, and who suppose that the Commonwealth of 1960 (let alone that of Ottawa in 1931) is there to fall back on, are misleading themselves and their countrymen: there is no such alternative partnership on offer. The alternative to EEC is isolation, a sort of DIY for Britain.

The institution which has created this new international structure from the ex-British world is the Secretariat in Marlborough House, set up in 1965. If the Foreign Office had continued to run the Commonwealth it would now be dead. Because it is not now "Anglo-centric" because it has its own foothold and operations room sited in the capital of an Anglo-Saxon country which is now in the EEC, the Commonwealth is its widely spread membership. Next year the prime ministers' conference in Jamaica will be dominated by world recession. But they will also have to make plans for the Secretariat whose head, Mr Arnold Smith, is retiring. They will be looking for a successor with the qualities to carry on the development, from his neutral enclave in London, of the inter-governmental mutual aid and support society that the Commonwealth has become.

Break before university

From Dr J. R. Ellis
Sir, For some years younger applicants offered places at The London Hospital Medical College have been encouraged to have a break between school and university. Of the 88 students who entered this October 45 had had a break of nine months or more, usually more. Our reasons for pursuing this policy are numerous and vary a little from individual to individual.

We were impressed in the past by the fact that poor performance in the early parts of the medical course correlated more often with emery at eighteen than with previous academic attainments. We also felt that apart from the obvious benefits of entering with a little more maturity, perhaps a more certain motivation, and more experience in what might be called self-management, many medical students need more than they can obtain from home school and a university course in medicine. It is all too easy to graduate in medicine with little experience of people outside school and university and those who are sick or work in the health professions. No amount of teaching in sociology as applied to medicine is likely to make good a total absence of direct experience of how other people spend their lives.

In offering a place a year ahead to a boy or girl who has demonstrated adequate command of basic science, we have asked that the year be spent in a way seemingly complementary to the individual's complementing his or her life experience to date. Some have hitherto led a singularly sheltered existence, while

others have had jobs of many kinds but limited cultural opportunities. A majority have had some introduction to the world of medicine, some nursing, a job as a hospital porter or work in a laboratory. We advise strongly that further time should not be spent in any occupation connected with medicine, on the grounds that a most valuable educational opportunity will be wasted if it is used to gain no more than a preview of what will be experienced in a working lifetime.

It is too early yet to report on the results of our policy (and at the moment we lack the funds for detailed study), but we have so far had no reason to regret it and no one who has accepted our offer of a place a year ahead has failed to take it up.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN ELLIS,
Deputy of The London Hospital Medical College,
Turner Street, E1.

Public lending right
From Mr Geoffrey Cotterell
Sir, Will Mr Douglas Hurd and Mr Nigel Lawson (December 20) kindly explain why it is wrong for the taxpayer to pay for the public lending right because he may never borrow a book, but right for him to pay for public libraries which he may never enter and for hospitals in which he may never be treated?
Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY COTTERELL,
2 Fulbourne House,
Blackwater Road,
Eastbourne, Sussex.

All-male 'As you like it'
From Mr Clifford Williams
Sir, Clive Barnes suggests (December 14) that the National Theatre was at fault in permitting a "sub-standard" version of my all-male *As You Like It* to be presented in New York recently. This is nonsense. When the National Theatre gave permission to the American producers to tour the show for six months in North America it knew that the same team of collaborators would be responsible for it as for the original London production (myself, Ralph Koltai, design; Robert Orm, lighting; Marc Wilkinson, music). It gave valuable technical assistance, and it supervised the casting.

An excellent company of British actors commenced the tour on July 16 in San Francisco. Glowing reviews were received there, in Los Angeles, and across the USA. House records were broken in Boston, the last stop before New York. Why should the National Theatre therefore be chastised for its part in the proceedings?

It happened that Clive Barnes did not like the production. When he saw it some years ago at the Old Vic he did. Which proves only that either the production, unfortunately, has changed for the worse—or Clive Barnes has. To blame the National Theatre is beside the point.

Yours faithfully,
CLIFFORD WILLIAMS,
25 Onslow Square, SW7,
December 17.

Increases in top salaries

From Lieutenant General Sir John Cowley
Sir, It is hard to believe that there could be a worse moment to announce the increase in the salaries of senior members of the judiciary, the civil and the armed services, however justified such an increase may be.

The fact that most of the increase is paid back in taxation makes the benefit to the recipients even more insignificant compared with the damage that will be done in public relations with the trade unions, who will make the most of this opportunity to support their own claims.

Is there no way to reverse this decision? If not, is it possible for the comparatively few beneficiaries to make a public statement that they will not accept these salary increases until the country can afford them?
JOHN COWLEY,
White Moor,
Sandy Down, Boldre,
Lymington, Hampshire.

Rhodesia settlement

From Mr J. A. Lemkin and
Sir, I would seem to us that there are two necessary ingredients to any acceptable solution of the Rhodesian problem.

First, it is essential that a firm guarantee clause be built into the constitutional settlement to ensure that such a settlement leading to the implementation of the plan envisaged as planned and that neither the Smith government nor the African nationalists falter along the way. Responsibility for such a guarantee might well be placed upon South Africa and Zambia respectively, the two countries mainly responsible for the present breakdown. Alternatively, as was discussed at the last Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in Ottawa, some other Commonwealth guarantor might be considered.

Second, it is most likely that any meaningful constitutional settlement will not be acceptable to some of the present European residents of Rhodesia. It would therefore also be essential that guarantees be given by HMG, as part of an economic package, to any Europeans wishing to leave Rhodesia in the immediate future to enable them to make all or a major part of their assets, at fair values, with them.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES LEMKIN,
PETER SMITH,
35a Elyssee Road, SW18.

The Pope and reform

From the Archdeacon of Canterbury
Sir, May I be allowed to comment on the headline of your article "The Pope condemns infidelity in the Church" (December 17)? Your respected correspondent, my old friend Peter Nichols, gives a balanced account of the two emphases in the Pope's speech. Many observers and friends of the Roman Church regret that the press in general, and even you, Sir, consistently react in headline "unfavourable" side of such a situation, to the exclusion of the other. This has inevitably built up a picture of Paul VI as a reactionary, instead of that of a wise leader of the Roman Church in times of stress.

Many of us outside the Church of Rome would agree that some of her accredited teachers have overstepped the bounds of reasonable loyalty, deserving to be called to order and should reconsider their position as Roman Catholics. So far we have no quarrel with your headline. But could you not on the occasion of other papal pronouncements headline the "favourable" side of the picture if and when both are applicable?

This present speech could just as easily have carried the title "Pope calls for further dogmatic experiment" or "Pope urges Church to cut dead wood". His excellent metaphor of the pruning of the tree could equally well have been used by an Anglican Reformation Archbishop. It could never have been used by any of his predecessors. Then why not occasionally speak in the "Pope of the new Reformation"?

Workers for unity are easily discouraged: it would be a pity if that happened unnecessarily. If any of them need encouragement let them take note of the fact that Paul VI was at least thinking of pruning shears on the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD C. PAWLEY,
Vice-Chairman, Anglican Commission on Roman Catholic Relations,
29 The Precincts,
Canterbury, Kent.

Manorial courts

From Mr Ian Campbell
Sir, The Law Commission are proposing to recommend to the Lord Chancellor that a number of obsolete courts of law in England and Wales, including manorial courts, be abolished by legislation in the near future. There are still a number of manorial courts in existence, and some of them perform a useful function of managing common land.

We understand that there is likely to be provision in the draft legislation for specific exemptions, i.e. a schedule listing manorial courts which will be allowed to continue. The Law Commission is prepared to entertain applications for inclusion in this list, and this society has already advised a number of manorial courts known to us of the position.

Where a manorial court is functioning well and managing a common, it is obviously desirable that it should continue to do so. This society would be interested to hear of any information regarding any such manorial courts, especially any which have resumed operations in recent years since commons registration has clarified the existence and extent of certain commons' rights.

Yours faithfully,
IAN CAMPBELL, Secretary,
Commons Open Spaces and
Footpaths Preservation Society,
166 Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2.

Search for Middle East peace

From Lord Caradon
Sir, Increasingly we realise that if the present drift in the Middle East continues another war will come bringing untold bloodshed and destruction, and a pre-emptive strike may start the war suddenly at any time without warning. So a new initiative in search of a peaceful settlement is desperately urgent.

Surely a return to the Geneva Conference must no longer be delayed, on the basis of the recognition of four principles. First, the peace settlement must be comprehensive. A piecemeal peace is a contradiction in terms.

Second, it must be international. There can be no real progress if the principal powers do not act together. Third, the principles of United Nations Resolution 242 (a withdrawal to lasting peace) must still prevail.

Fourth, the right of the Palestinians to self-determination must be accepted.

It should not be impossible for all the participants of the 1973 Geneva Conference to agree with those general propositions. What is now necessary if there is to be an escape from the present drift is to find a fresh procedure.

This is the suggestion—for a two-stage Conference at Geneva. The first stage would be a reconvening of the

Dissolution of a choir

From Dr Anthony Milner
Sir, Much as I respect the eminent musicians who wrote (December 20) regarding the forthcoming dissolution of Westminster Cathedral's choir, many arguments could be urged against their views: (1) Daily choral singing in Catholic cathedrals is now rare; St Peter's and the Lateran have abandoned it. Why should English Catholics be more fortunate than the Pope's Sunday choir that sing also on major feasts may still be possible within the present finances.

(2) It is hardly justifiable to describe the choir's performance of *Plainsong* (despite its beauty) as authoritative; whose authority? Scholars acquainted with recent research know that chant performance has varied widely in different times and places, and that what little is known of it at the time of the earliest musical manuscripts bears scarcely any relation to the methods customary today.

(3) To talk of "tradition" in relation to the choir's repertoire is seriously misleading. From the eleventh to nineteenth centuries, plainsong excepted, the Church preferred to commission new compositions; each age jettisoned most, if not all, the music that preceded it. While not at all advocating a wholesale rejection of the past, as a composer and music historian I am dismayed by the Westminster Cathedral choir's wish to act as musical museum, but to serve the liturgy. Westminster has lamentably failed in what should be one of its main concerns, to set an example in promoting the reformed liturgy so admirably begun by the Second Vatican Council.

Only two of the thirteen signatories of the letter are Roman Catholics, none is a liturgical scholar. They seem to be unaware of how great a part music played in the previous deformation of the liturgy, just as they probably do not know the immense possibilities for new musical forms now open to composers. I speak here from experience, having had the privilege many times in England and the United States of being asked to write music exploring these possibilities and of witnessing its fruitful aggregations.

Westminster need to remember the essential principles laid down by the Vatican Council: "the full and active participation by all the people is the aim to be considered before all else, for it is the primary and indispensable source from which the faithful are to derive the true Christian spirit" (*Liturgical Constitution*, 1964, art 14), and "it is the choir's duty... to care for and foster the active participation of the faithful in song" (*Instruction on Sacred Music*, 1967, art 19). As the Director of the course of choral writing in today's *Times* (December 21): "Whenever the Church is doing its job properly, there is seldom a financial crisis".

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY MILNER,
Principal Lecturer in Music,
Department of Music,
University of London,
Goldsmiths' College,
New Cross, SE14,
December 21.

A referendum on EEC

From Mr Julian Amery, Conservative MP for Brighton Pavilion
Sir, Given the uncertainties of the economic situation, the Prime Minister is, perhaps naturally, keeping open the option of whether to ask the country to accept or reject the results of his "renegotiation" with the European Economic Community at a general election or a referendum. But the odds seem to be in favour of a referendum.

To hold a referendum at all would presumably require an Act of Parliament to determine the procedures for the referendum and other mechanical aspects such as the interval between the announcement and the poll itself.

Mr Wilson has also declared that in putting the outcome of the "renegotiation" to the country, he will make a recommendation in favour of acceptance or rejection.

This much is clear. But there are still some vital constitutional questions to be answered. Will the Prime Minister simply ask Parliament to approve the mechanics of the referendum and the form of the questions to be asked, or will he also ask Parliament to approve his recommendation to accept or reject the terms?

If he adopted the former course, the referendum would be rather like a dissolution giving the Prime Minister personally the power to bypass or override on a specific issue, both Parliament and, indeed, his own colleagues in the Government, but without risking a change in the composition of the House of Commons.

This would seem unacceptable.

If on the other hand the Government collectively adopt the second course and submit the terms of the "renegotiation" and their recom-

Arts and the economy

From Mr Donald Albery
Sir, I am sure you will wish me to correct the false impression given in your leading article on December 9 as regards the performing arts' contribution to the country's balance of payments.

The principal West End theatres and concert halls alone made a direct contribution to the balance of payments by direct sales for cash to foreigners of just over £12 million in 1973 and of course, this figure would have to be added a very substantial sum of expenditure by tourists in centres such as Stratford-on-Avon, Glydebourne, the Edinburgh Festival and other provincial centres.

Britain exports more plays all over the world than any other nation bringing in very substantial sums by way of royalties. At this moment in time, out of 21 plays on Broadway no less than 11 are of British origin. A typical royalty payable by a Broadway producer for a modern play would be approximately 15 per cent made up of author's fees, managerial profit royalties plus directors' fees. In addition, there would probably be a payment to this country of approximately 20 per cent of the net profit.

3. On a visit on business to the United States, I was astounded to find that, out of a total of seven advertisements in the *New York Sunday Times* promoting the attractions of travel to the United Kingdom and to other countries, in all seven advertisements the only attraction singled out was "Go to London and see one, two or more shows" and the "theatre" was not mentioned as an attraction for any other capital city. Nor including transport and airline passages, £500 million was spent by tourists in the United Kingdom in 1973, and it is

acknowledged on all sides that it is "theatre" alone that gives us the edge throughout the year on the other capital cities and, although it is true that tourists can go to any one of these other capitals to sight-see, visit museums, galleries, etc. none of them can offer the "theatre" which provides such a variety of entertainment in a language which the majority of tourists can understand to a standard that is incomparably higher than can be found anywhere else in the world.

4. The British Tourist Authority have taken various censuses from 1958 onwards and have found that approximately 50 per cent of all foreign visitors give the "theatre" as one of the main reasons for visiting the United Kingdom which would indicate that any serious diminution of the industry's output, imperfect as it may be, might jeopardize not less than £340 million worth of tourist business per year plus their passage money when travelling by a British carrier.

In conclusion, I would emphasize that there is no clearer direct export than the sale of a ticket to a British play. The tourist takes nothing away with him but a piece of paper which would more often than not represent an empty seat. I do not think there is any other export in which 100 per cent of the value of the export is spent in the country's favour, most other exports contain a very large percentage of imported raw materials, etc.

I am writing in my capacity as Chairman of the Theatres National Committee which represents individual managements large and small of both the independent and the subsidized theatre.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD ALBERY, Chairman,
The Theatres National Committee,
Albery Theatre,
St Martin's Lane, WC2,
December 17.

Gifts to charity

From Mr J. D. Livingston Booth
Sir, Martin Huckerby's excellent article in *The Times* on December 13, highlighted in clear terms the very serious financial situation of Britain's charities and the effect of such a situation on the horizon.

The estimated total annual sum given to charity in the United Kingdom is currently some £35m and approximately £175m of this comes from the income of individuals and business organizations. However, only some £50m of this is tax-privileged, leaving £125m which is given from taxed income.

If the maximum use were made of existing fiscal privileges for charitable giving, estimates that the above £125m would be increased by approximately another £60m and at no extra cost to donors. The main existing concession in the United Kingdom on gifts to charity out of income is the deed of covenant, but many prospective donors fear a commitment to several years, or to a specified sum, particularly in today's uncertain conditions. Some also do not wish to commit themselves to a stated charity but would prefer to retain discretion and flexibility in the giving.

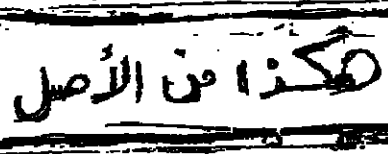
These fears are, however, largely groundless, and, with sound advice, such objections can be overcome, and many more donors enabled to use the concession to increase the benefit of their charitable giving. Such action could immediately and dramatically improve the financial resources of charity at a time of great need.

I therefore believe that charitable organizations must redouble their efforts to widen the understanding of the fiscal concessions that are currently available to them, and of the many possibilities of the covenant concession in increasing the extent of giving out of income without loss of freedom of choice.

Yours faithfully,
J. D. LIVINGSTON BOOTH,
Director,
Charities Aid Foundation,
48 Pembury Road,
Tombridge, Kent.

Television and radio cuts

From Mr J. O'Sullivan
Sir, Hands off the party political broadcasts, Patrick Sirling! (December 19). What else so exactly provides the essential interval between the main TV programme and the news for filling the hot water bottles, laying the early morning tea tray and making hot drinks?
Yours faithfully,
JOHN O'SULLIVAN,
105 Crowstone Road,
Westcliff-on-Sea,
Essex.



FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

New £600m Treasury 'tap' issue priced at 84.5 pc

A new issue of Government bonds was announced just after the stock market shut for Christmas—£600m 3 per cent Treasury stock, 1977. Lists open and close on January 2.

activity within the Slater, Walker Bank AG Group because of the changed situation in banking sector since the summer. Bowater acquired the bank in June. Capital of the bank will in future be used to finance Bowater's other German activities.

Market sources consider that the stock is intended to encourage "switching" from Savings Bonds 3 per cent, 1965-75, which are due for redemption next August. Some £1,000m of Savings is held, largely by public stockholders.

The gilt-edged market as a whole is likely to take the new stock in its stride. But some issues with similar coupons—such as Electric 3 per cent, 1974-77, or Transport 4 per cent, 1972-77—could be affected.

Bowater closing its German bank Slater Walker Bank AG (a subsidiary of Bowater Corp) will relinquish its banking status on December 31 and wind up its banking business almost entirely, and without loss, by that date.

This follows a decision by the parent Bowater to give up plans for an expansion of banking brought minor profit-taking in gold shares. Industrials were generally easier, motor components widdling.

Christmas Eve came early this year on the stock market trading floor. Long before 1.00 pm, the official close, shares were deserted as members gamely tried to be festive.

But this was not easy in the equity market where share prices gave up what was left of the recovery of the previous fortnight, and market indices slid back to the 1974-75 low levels recorded only two weeks before.

Lower bullion prices in London brought minor profit-taking in gold shares. Industrials were generally easier, motor components widdling.

Lewston in cash squeeze, seeks bankers' help

The slowdown in house and property sale at home and losses being incurred by the European construction activities have left Lewston International with a short-term cash squeeze. The company revealed on Christmas Eve (£24,000,000).

Arrangements are being made to terminate the European losses and negotiations to provide the necessary funds and guarantees are taking place with the company's principal United Kingdom and European bankers.

Unochrome International—Final dividend, 0.175p, making 0.35p (same) for year to June last. Pre-tax profit, £47,000,000.

Commonwealth Stationery—First-half taxable profit up from £109,000 to £224,000. Turnover increased from £711,000 to £981,000.

Press reports of heavy Christmas spending did nothing for stores, the 1974-75 low levels recorded only two weeks before.

Lower bullion prices in London brought minor profit-taking in gold shares. Industrials were generally easier, motor components widdling.

Foreign Exchange Easier trend in the dollar

The dollar eased against most European currencies on the London money market on Tuesday morning. Eveningly the Bank of England stepped in to mop up a surplus of Treasury bills to both the bank and the discount houses.

Money was slow to appear, and there was a further decline in the circulation, and Government disbursements were in excess of revenue transfers to the Exchequer.

Against this, the market faced a net take-up of Treasury bills to both the bank and the discount houses.

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Spot Position of Sterling

At 10.30 on Tuesday, the pound was trading at 2.4310-2.4315 against the dollar (4.0000-4.0005). The pound was trading at 2.4310-2.4315 against the dollar (4.0000-4.0005).

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Wall Street

New York, Dec 26.—Apparently spurred by growing investor optimism that the United States Government will soon mount a fresh attack on economic and energy problems, the stock market closed higher in quiet trading.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 6.34 points to finish at 804.74, following a 8.75 point advance on Tuesday. Gains outnumbered losses by about 840 to 500.

Volume rose to 11,910,000 shares from 9,540,000 shares in Tuesday's shortened session but was well under Monday's 18,040,000 shares.

Stocks got off to a good start and there were strong gains in the early session, but some failed to hold gains were partly erased near the close.

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Commodities

COPPER prices eased on Tuesday with cash rates down 25 and three months 25.75. However in late afternoon the latter position was 25.00. The market was quiet, with a few scattered trades.

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Recent Issues

Recent issues of Treasury bills and other government securities. The market was quiet, with a few scattered trades.

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Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

Table listing various financial products, their prices, and performance metrics. Includes columns for 'Authorized Units', 'Insurance', and 'Offshore Funds'.

Bank Base Rates

Table showing bank base rates for various institutions like Barclays Bank, NFN, etc.

Silver slips after bright start

New York, Dec 26.—Commodity silver prices fell after a bright start on Monday. The market was quiet, with a few scattered trades.

Wheat closed weak

WHEAT closed weak at 12 1/2 cents. The market was quiet, with a few scattered trades.

COTTON closed quiet

COTTON closed quiet at 36.00 cents. The market was quiet, with a few scattered trades.

COCA Cola futures traded in a limited fashion

COCA Cola futures traded in a limited fashion. The market was quiet, with a few scattered trades.

CHICAGO SOYBEANS

CHICAGO SOYBEANS futures closed at 10.50 cents. The market was quiet, with a few scattered trades.

The Gresham House Estate Company Ltd.

Table showing financial statements for The Gresham House Estate Company Ltd.

Condensed Statement of Condition

The Fuji Bank, Ltd. Condensed Statement of Condition as of September 30, 1974.

Large table showing assets and liabilities for The Fuji Bank, Ltd. as of September 30, 1974.

Table showing bank base rates for various institutions like Barclays Bank, NFN, etc.

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Japan's Leading Commercial Bank FUJI BANK. 1-chome, Ottemachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo Phone: (03) 216-2211. Overseas Offices: London, Dusseldorf, Beirut, New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Toronto, Sao Paulo, Hong Kong, Singapore, Jakarta, Seoul, Subotivara; Fuji Bank (Schweiz) AG, Zurich. The Fuji Bank and Trust Co., New York.

Stock Exchange Prices

Equities still dull

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began Dec 24. Dealings End Jan 10. Contango Day, Jan 13. Settlement Day, Jan 21.

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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BRITISH FUNDS

Table listing various British funds with columns for fund name, price, and change.

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

Table listing commonwealth and foreign funds with columns for fund name, price, and change.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Table listing local authority funds with columns for fund name, price, and change.

FOREIGN STOCKS

Table listing foreign stocks with columns for stock name, price, and change.

DOLLAR STOCKS

Table listing dollar stocks with columns for stock name, price, and change.

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

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FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table listing financial trusts with columns for trust name, price, and change.

INSURANCE

Table listing insurance companies with columns for company name, price, and change.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table listing investment trusts with columns for trust name, price, and change.

OIL

Table listing oil stocks with columns for stock name, price, and change.

PROPERTY

Table listing property stocks with columns for stock name, price, and change.

RUBBER

Table listing rubber stocks with columns for stock name, price, and change.

MINES

Table listing mining stocks with columns for stock name, price, and change.

PROPERTY

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RUBBER

Table listing rubber stocks with columns for stock name, price, and change.

TEA

Table listing tea stocks with columns for stock name, price, and change.

MISCELLANEOUS

Table listing miscellaneous stocks with columns for stock name, price, and change.

SHIPPING

Table listing shipping stocks with columns for stock name, price, and change.

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BIRTHS

BIRCH—On 23rd December at Birchenhead, Lancashire, the wife of Mr. J. Birch, of 10, St. James' Road, Birchenhead, Lancashire, gave birth to a son, James John Birch, weighing 7lb 10oz.

BIRTHDAYS

MARRIAGES

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DIAMOND JEWELS

FABRICS FOR CURTAINS

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